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Pro Wrestling Illustrated Presents

# PWI 500

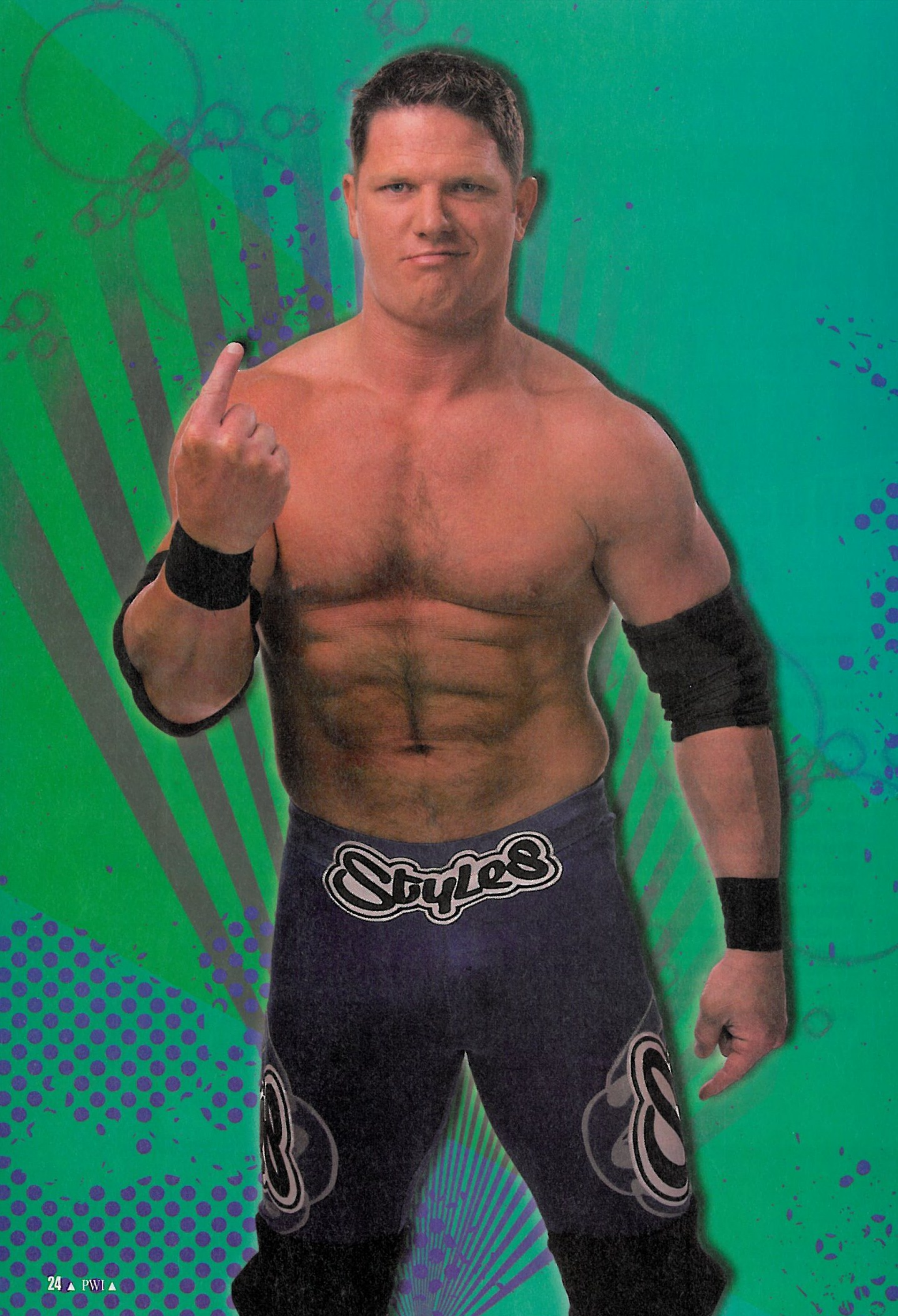


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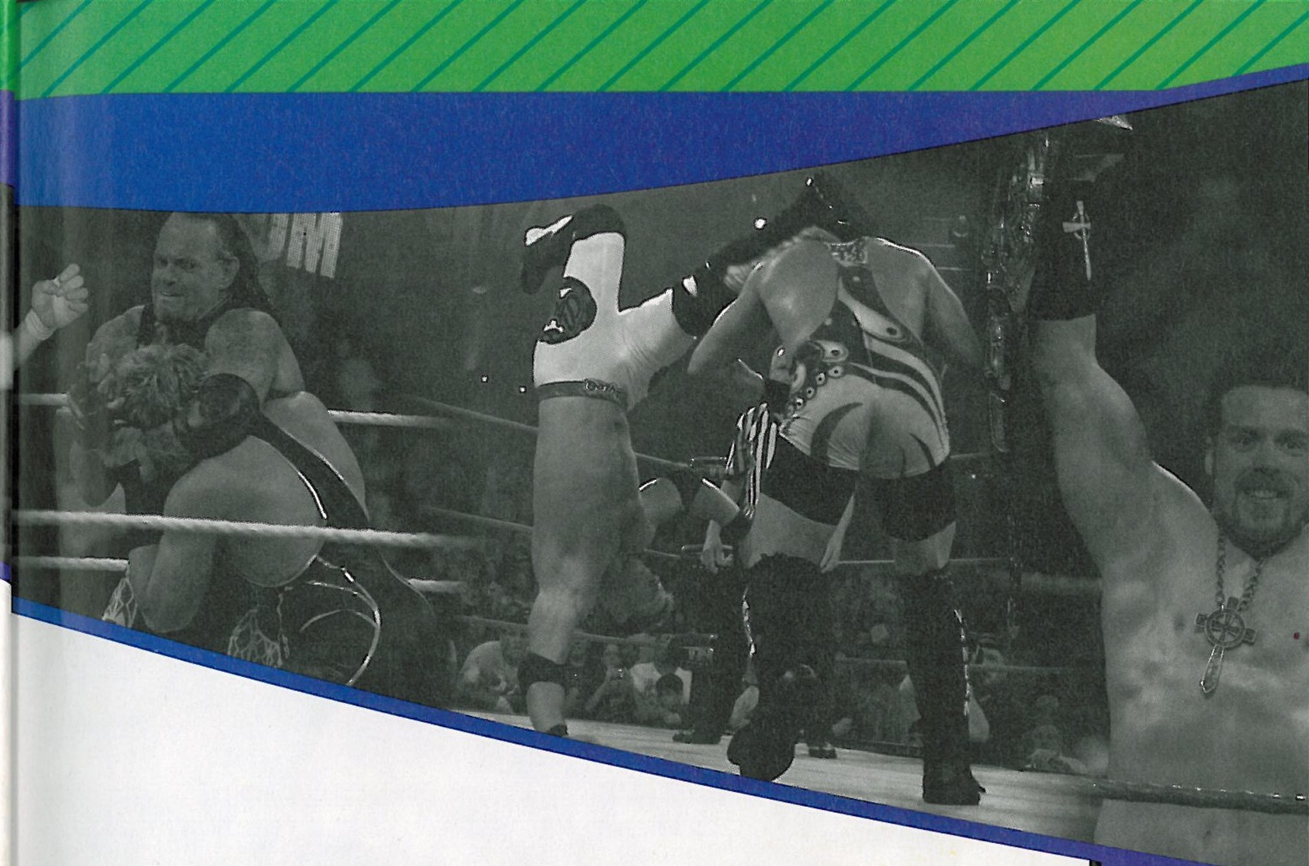
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# 2010 PWI 500





# OUR 20TH ANNUAL RANKING BRINGS SOME EXCITING CHANGES

Since PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED debuted in 1979, its "Official Rankings" section had been one of the most popular and controversial departments in the magazine. With the growth of professional wrestling—both domestically and internationally—and the proliferation of independent wrestling promotions, the editors of *PWI* decided in 1991 to attempt to rank the top 500 wrestlers in the sport. To say the least, it was an ambitious project. Some members of our staff wondered whether there actually *were* 500 active wrestlers at the time.

In that first listing, Hulk Hogan narrowly edged out Lex Luger and Ric Flair to take the top spot. Zeus claimed the 500th spot, falling behind the likes of Tamba the Flying Elephant.

The "*PWI* 500" has become an annual institution. For nearly two decades, it has consistently provoked discussion, debate, and controversy. But a lot has changed since 1991. This year, we considered more than 1,600 wrestlers for spots in our ranking, including talent from six continents. We've had many wrestlers tell us that making the "500" would be "a dream come true," that they have read the "500" since childhood and could consider their career complete if they could just earn a spot on our list.

Of course, the "*PWI* 500" continues to generate controversy and debate. Instead of overloaded mailbags arriving at our office, the debate plays out on Internet message boards, chat rooms, YouTube videos, and e-mails. We've heard from wrestlers who were thrilled with their ranking and wrestlers who promised they would never speak to us again because of their ranking.

To assemble this year's list, we evaluated the performances of every wrestler for the period of June 1, 2009, through May 31, 2010. We considered championships won, major feuds, won-loss records, quality of opposition, prominence within their individual promotion(s), and overall wrestling ability. We discussed the performance of each wrestler and, over the period of several meetings, we assembled the list you see on the following pages.

This year's "500" is notable for a few reasons. For the first time ever, a TNA wrestler captured the top spot, as AJ Styles beat out John Cena and C.M. Punk to become number one. This was also a year without Shawn Michaels, as the "Heartbreak Kid" retired after WrestleMania, which disqualifies him from consideration. And Ring of Honor has slipped noticeably in its prominence, with ROH champion Tyler Black checking in at 19, falling well short of high-water marks set by former ROH stars Bryan Danielson, Samoa Joe, and Nigel McGuinness.

Naturally, we're sure that the 2010 "*PWI* 500" will generate its share of discussion and debate, and we look forward to joining in the conversation.

*[The numbers in parentheses following the wrestlers' names represent height, weight, years pro, and last year's ranking.]*

# PWI 500

## 1 AJ STYLES
(5'11", 215, 12, 19)

### PATH TO NUMBER 1:

458 in 2000, 199 in 2001, 70 in 2002, 11 in 2003, 8 in 2004, 7 in 2005, 13 in 2006, 32 in 2007, 21 in 2008, 19 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Captured the TNA World title on September 20, winning a five-way match at No Surrender that included champion Kurt Angle, Sting, Matt Morgan, and Hernandez.

**2.** Became the first man to retain the TNA World title against Sting at Bound for Glory on October 18.

**3.** Defeated Samoa Joe and Christopher Daniels to retain the title at Final Resolution in a sequel to the trio's epic 2005 three-way battle.

**4.** Defeated Kurt Angle for the second time in two weeks at Genesis on January 17, and also took on Ric Flair as his new manager.

**5.** Beat D'Angelo Dinero in a Six Sides of Steel match at Lockdown to retain the TNA World title.



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 1:

Two hundred and eleven days—that's why … In an era when a three-month world title reign is considered lengthy, Styles wore the TNA championship for more than seven months—the longest reign since the TNA World title was created three years ago, and the longest reign of any wrestling world title in nearly four years … Along the way, he defended his title at every corner and against every challenger … Retained his title in eight consecutive defenses on pay-per-view between September and April, turning away Abyss and Samoa Joe, among others … Although better fitting the dimensions of an X division competitor, Styles proved himself as an elite main event star over the past year—combining his untouchable athleticism with fierce determination to create the total wrestling package … Unmatched wrestling skill even drew the attention of perhaps the greatest wrestler in history, Ric Flair, who returned to the sport to guide the career of "The Phenomenal One" … With Flair by his side, Styles has relied on some shortcuts, but his wrestling mastery remains unquestioned, and was even evident when he finally lost his title to Rob Van Dam in April … Springboard 450 splash, Spiral Tap corkscrew moonsault, and Pele Kick are sights to behold … Through his inspired efforts, Styles becomes the first TNA wrestler ever to top the "*PWI* 500" and only the third non-WWE wrestler in the listing's 20-year history to achieve the number-one position.

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

The moment Styles enters the ring, you can be sure excitement is just around the corner. But it may be difficult for him to repeat the success he had over the past year. The TNA acquisitions of former WWE headliners Jeff Hardy, Mr. Anderson, and Rob Van Dam threaten to push Styles, who has less mainstream recognition, out of the world title picture. Even if Styles regains the momentum he had before losing his title to Van Dam, he may still reach a glass ceiling. Ultimately, Styles' career can only grow as big as his home wrestling promotion does—and growth has been slow coming for TNA as of late. Styles has also seemed miscast at times in the role of the new "Nature Boy." Regardless of the designer suits or lovely women who accompany him to the ring, Styles is simply not believable as a slick-talking hustler. At his core, he is a warrior, small in stature, but enormous in talent and heart.



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

# PWI 500

## 2 JOHN CENA
(6'1", 240, 10, 3)

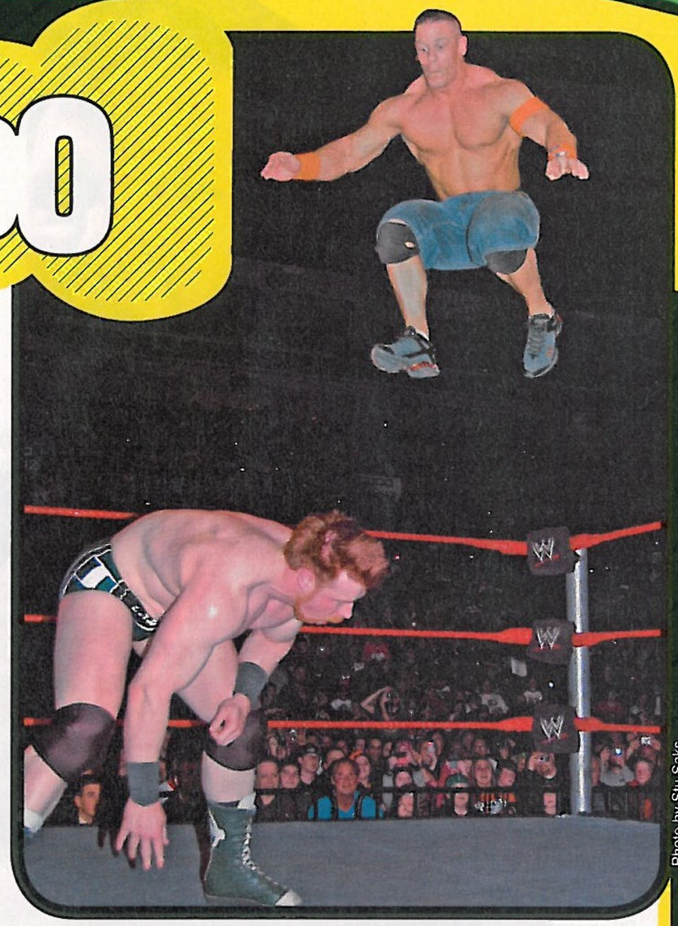


Photo by Stu Saks

### PATH TO NUMBER 2:

281 in 2001, 46 in 2002, 12 in 2003, 7 in 2004, 2 in 2005, 1 in 2006, 1 in 2007, 3 in 2008, 3 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Defeated WWE heavyweight champion Batista at WrestleMania 26 to capture his ninth world title.

**2.** Emerged victorious over Randy Orton in a grueling 60-minute Iron Man match at October's Bragging Rights to win his seventh world title.

**3.** Outlasted Triple-H, Randy Orton, Ted DiBiase Jr., and Kofi Kingston in a Raw brand Elimination Chamber match in February to win his eighth world title.

**4.** Made Batista utter the words "I quit" to retain his title at May's Over the Limit.

**5.** Defeated Triple-H and Shawn Michaels in a triple-threat match at Survivor Series to retain the WWE heavyweight title.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 2:

Generation Y's Hulk Hogan remains WWE's top box office attraction and a wrestling superstar in every sense of the word … Added to his legacy considerably over the grading period with four more world title reigns, and another victory in a WrestleMania main event … Has proven to be the ideal poster boy for WWE as it has attempted to return to its roots as a family-friendly product … In contrast to anti-heroes such as Steve Austin, who ruled wrestling a decade ago, Cena is very much a "good guy" who exemplifies values such as hard work and determination … Has also achieved something of a moral victory in the fact that his booing section is not nearly as loud as it was just a year or two ago … That has a lot to do with Cena's growth as a wrestler … Nowhere was that more evident than in his performance and victory over Orton in a 60-minute Iron Man match—a stipulation traditionally reserved for the sport's finest technicians … Has a good shot at one day becoming the first-ever wrestler to be ranked number-one in the "*PWI* 500" three times.

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

In the five years since Cena won his first world title, he's defeated just about every top star, headlined six WrestleManias, and picked up eight more world titles along the way. So what's left for the sport's top star to do? The wrestling world was asking the same question of another iconic wrestling hero about 15 years ago, and in the wake of that question emerged "Hollywood" Hulk Hogan. Indeed, throughout wrestling history, even the most virtuous warriors have strayed into the dark side. And Cena certainly has reasons to be increasingly frustrated. He has never regained the momentum he had in his earlier world title reigns—including one that lasted longer than a year. Many of Cena's more recent reigns have lasted just a month or two. That's sometimes been due to the odds being unfairly stacked against him—whether it's a trivial stipulation that allowed him to lose the title by falling onto a table or being booked in a title defense against Batista seconds after competing in an Elimination Chamber match. And although Cena claims to have a thick skin, the years of boos, taunts, and insults directed toward him by many fans have to take their toll. Cena is only human, and humans are capable of some pretty evil things.

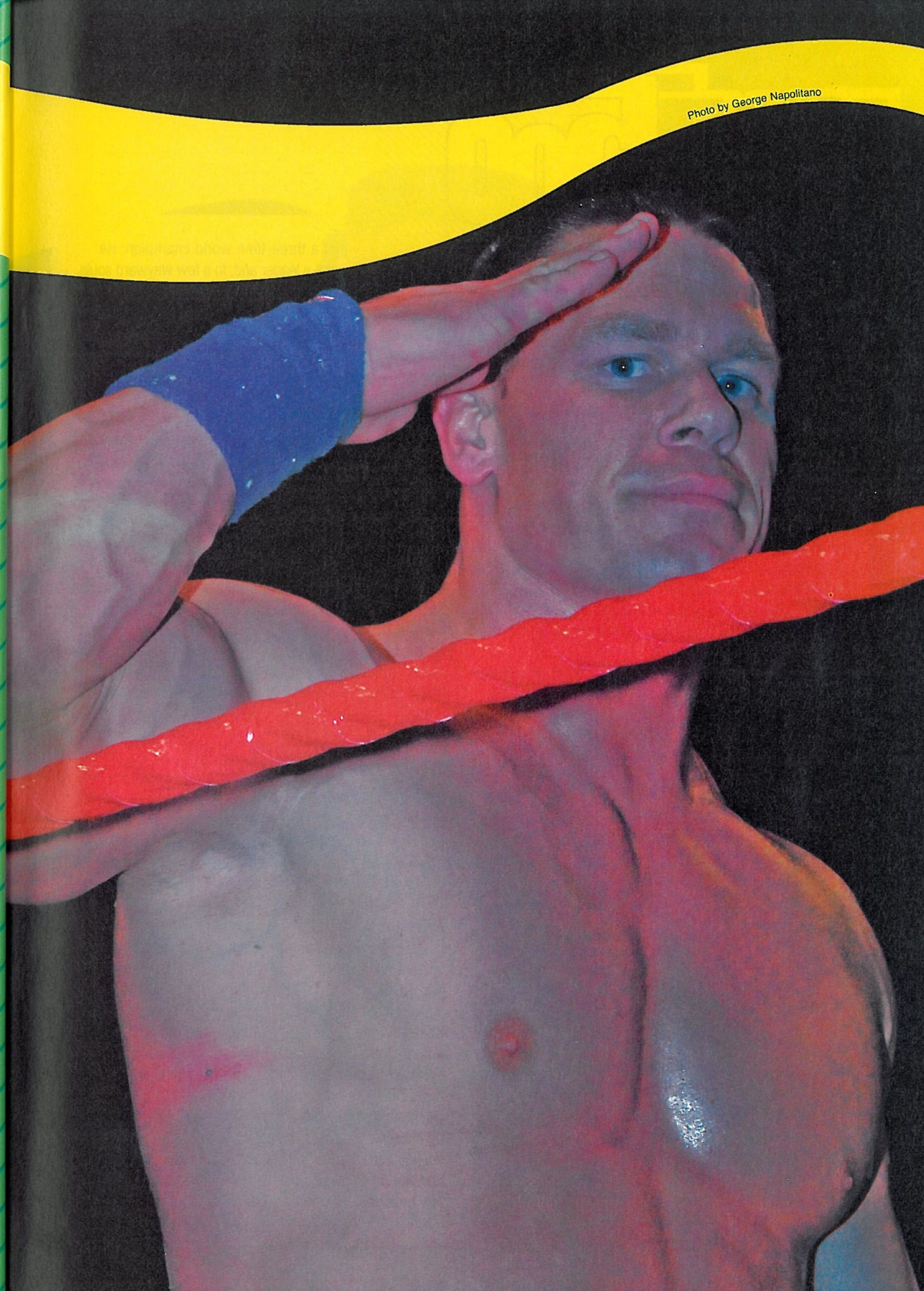


Photo by George Napolitano

# PWI 500

## 3 C.M. PUNK
(6'1", 222, 11, 8)

### PATH TO NUMBER 3:

305 in 2002, 171 in 2003, 89 in 2004, 40 in 2005, 35 in 2006, 42 in 2007, 24 in 2008, 8 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Defeated Jeff Hardy at SummerSlam in a Tables, Ladders, and Chairs match to win his third WWE World championship.

**2.** Beat Rey Mysterio Jr. at April's Extreme Rules pay-per-view in a match in which Punk's hair was on the line.

**3.** Defeated The Undertaker in a submission match at Breaking Point to retain his WWE World title, with an assist from Smackdown General Manager Theodore Long.

**4.** Forced Jeff Hardy out of WWE after beating him in a loser-leaves-the-company steel cage match on *Smackdown*.

**5.** Defeated Kane on the May 28 edition of *Smackdown* to earn a spot in the Fatal 4-Way WWE World title match.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 3:

In his fourth year in WWE, C.M. Punk became more than just a three-time world champion: He became a leader and, to a few wayward souls, a god … It took a major attitude change from the once-popular "Windy City" native to achieve his most successful year to date … Took "straight edge" from being a tattoo on his midsection to something of a religion, complete with its own worshippers—the Straight Edge Society of Serena and Luke Gallows … In doing so, the self-righteous superstar has become one of WWE's most loathsome villains … Never was that more evident than in Punk's despicable treatment of Rey Mysterio Jr. and his family during Mysterio's daughter's ninth birthday celebration on *Smackdown* … But it's more than just Punk's big mouth that has helped cement his place among WWE's elite … The wiry Punk is a skilled technician who utilizes Muy Thai strikes to cut down opponents much larger than him … Has quietly put together one of the most impressive resumes of anyone in the sport over the past five years … That includes a Ring of Honor heavyweight championship, an ECW championship, an Intercontinental title, a WWE tag team title, two consecutive Money in the Bank ladder match victories, and three WWE World titles … And it's a good bet his best days are still ahead.

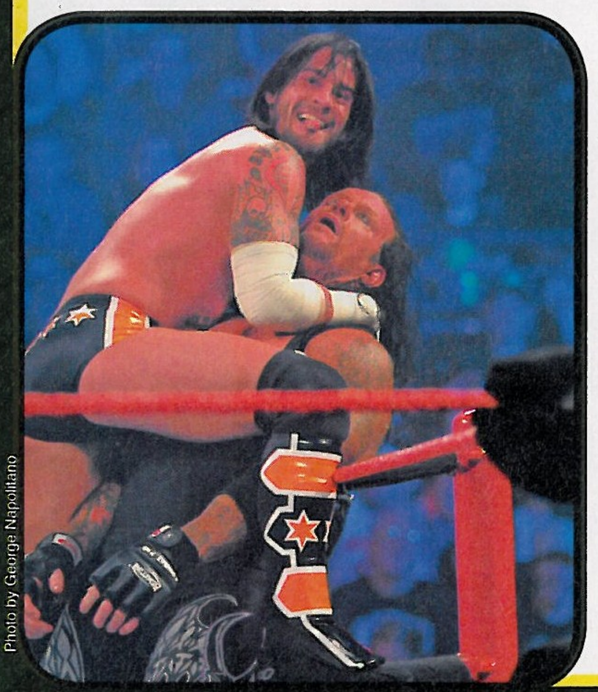


Photo by George Napolitano

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Despite the many accolades that adorn his mantle, Punk still has lots to achieve in the sport. In fact, Punk's success belies a spotty track record against some of the sport's toughest competitors. Although Punk has held his own against similar-sized opponents, he's struggled with true heavyweights, including The Undertaker, John Cena, and Triple-H, who have all made relatively easy work of Punk in past singles matches. So, while it won't win him many new fans, Punk is wise to surround himself with henchmen (and women) to help even the playing field against larger opponents. Gallows and a masked mystery member of SES have already aided Punk in picking up wins against the likes of Kane and Mysterio. But, ultimately, Punk's grudge with Mysterio may have cost him something very valuable—and we don't mean his hair. It cost him several months that he could have otherwise used to regain the WWE World title. Now with that feud behind him, Punk needs to work his way up the contendership ladder on Smackdown. That will mean scoring wins against the likes of Matt Hardy, Kofi Kingston, and The Big Show. To defeat Show, Punk may need to add a few more members to the SES.

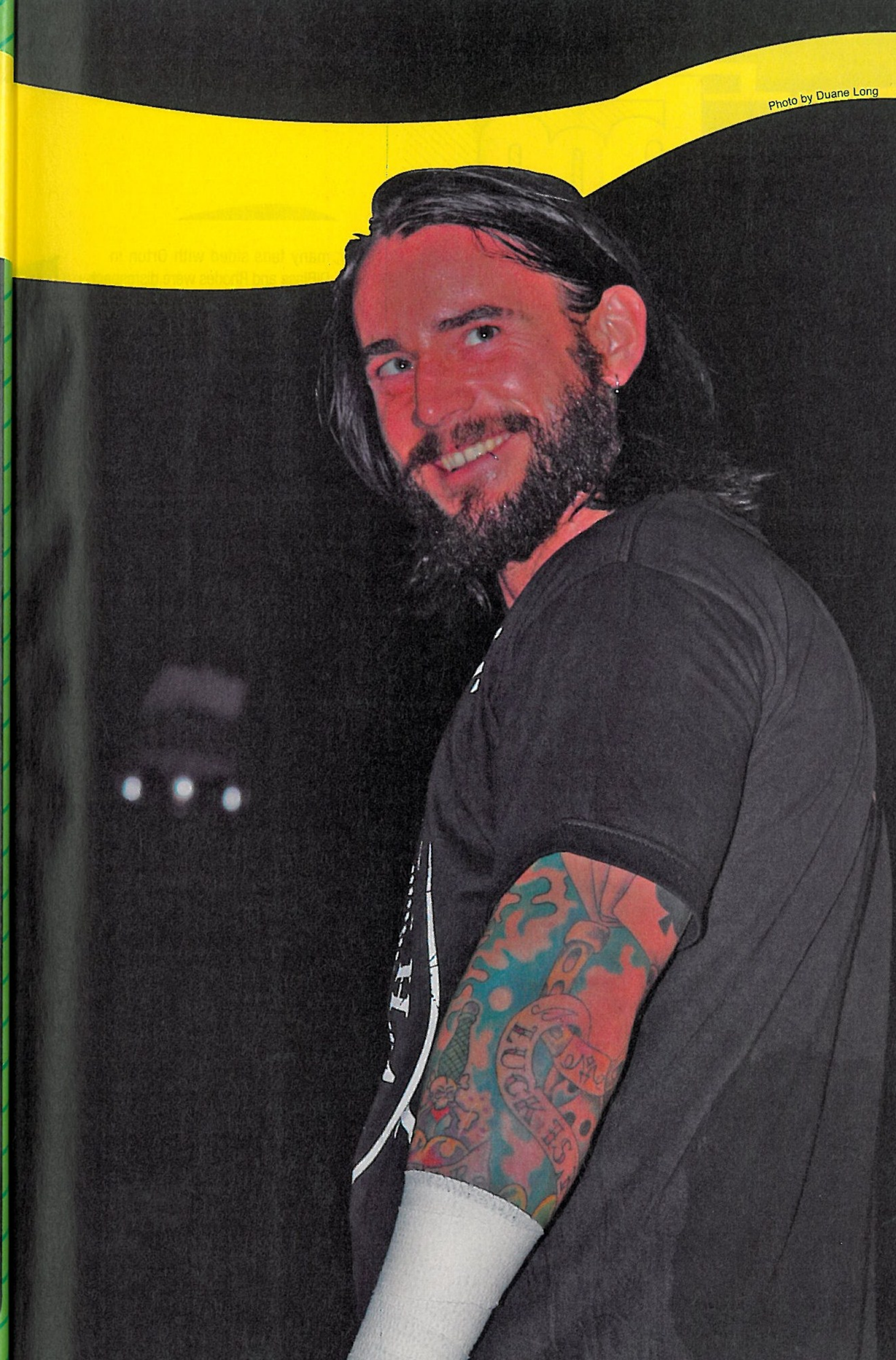


Photo by Duane Long

# PWI 500

## 4 RANDY ORTON
(6'4", 245, 10, 5)

### PATH TO NUMBER 4:

217 in 2001, 33 in 2002, 63 in 2003, 4 in 2004, 29 in 2005, 30 in 2006, 15 in 2007, 1 in 2008, 5 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Bested John Cena in an excruciating Hell in a Cell match in October to begin his sixth world title reign.

**2.** Defeated both his Legacy protégés, Cody Rhodes and Ted DiBiase Jr., in a triple-threat match at WrestleMania 26.

**3.** Beat Cena to retain his WWE heavyweight title at SummerSlam.

**4.** Pinned Kofi Kingston in a grudge match at December's Tables, Ladders, and Chairs pay-per-view.

**5.** Beat Triple-H and John Cena to retain his WWE title in a triple-threat match at the 2009 Night of Champions pay-per-view.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 4:

Fourteen years ago, a certain "Rattlesnake" won over the hearts of fans by doing nothing more than being the same ruthless and sinister bully the fans used to boo. Today, a "Viper" is doing much the same thing … Indeed, not much has changed about Orton since he ruled WWE as its most loathsome villain … Perhaps fans just started to come around about Orton's redeeming qualities—qualities that allowed him to top this list two years ago … Orton's drive for success is unquestionable and has led him to wear world title gold on six occasions—including twice within this grading period … For 18 months led fellow second-generation wrestlers Rhodes and DiBiase Jr. in a powerful stable dubbed Legacy … Rhodes and DiBiase helped him pick up some wins here and there, but it became apparent late last year that the two junior members of his faction may have been more of a hindrance than a help … In fact, Orton scored some of his biggest wins without any outside help, including his defeat of John Cena in a Hell in a Cell match in October … By March the group had fallen apart, and, surprisingly, many fans sided with Orton in believing DiBiase and Rhodes were disrespectful and ungrateful … Comes from a long line of wrestling Ortons, including his father Bob Jr., grandfather Bob Sr., and uncle Barry, but Randy has developed into the very finest in his family tree.

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Orton's career was doing just fine without any cheers, but the newfound support of fans may just give the "Legend Killer" the extra boost he needs to reach his fullest potential. The key for Orton is not straying too much from what has been a winning formula for years. While some of Orton's reprehensible actions cannot be commended, the results were undeniable. That's because, even at his worst, Orton was always more than just your average, rulebreaking bad guy. On the contrary, Orton's unwavering focus on his personal success has always been admirable, even if his methods have been misguided at times. And Orton's biggest shortcomings have stemmed from being easily flustered and overly defensive about his actions. Now with the fans on his side, Orton can let his unfiltered, true self come out in his matches. While Orton may not ask for the fans' approval, he's unwittingly doing the one thing that will earn it: kicking butt.



Photo by Siu Saks

Photo by Wayne McCarty

# PWI 500

## 5 CHRIS JERICHO
(6', 226, 20, 2)

### PATH TO NUMBER 5:

42 in 1996, 26 in 1997, 10 in 1998, 29 in 1999, 9 in 2000, 9 in 2001, 4 in 2002, 5 in 2003, 10 in 2004, 25 in 2005, 29 in 2008, 2 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Pinned WWE World champion The Undertaker to capture his sixth world title in a Smackdown Elimination Chamber match that also included John Morrison, R-Truth, C.M. Punk, and Rey Mysterio Jr.

**2.** Defeated Edge to retain the World title at WrestleMania 26.

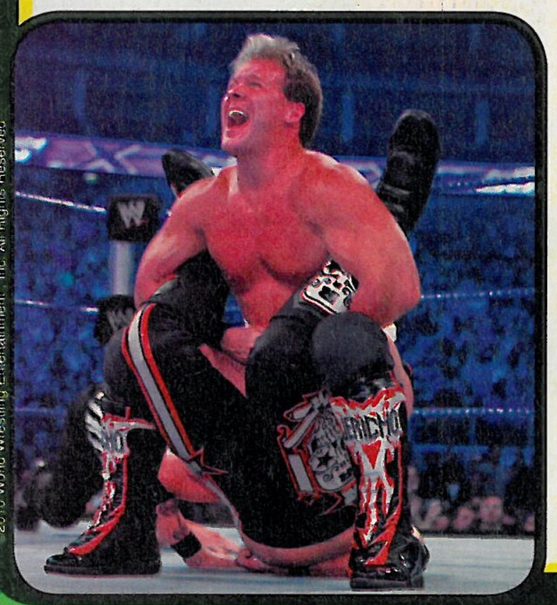
**3.** With partner The Big Show, beat Rey Mysterio Jr. and Batista at October's Hell in a Cell pay-per-view to retain the Unified tag team championship.

**4.** Led Team Smackdown to victory against Team Raw in a 10-man tag team match at Bragging Rights.

**5.** With The Big Show retained the Unified tag team championship at SummerSlam against Cryme Tyme.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 5:

Likes to claim "I'm the best in the world at what I do" … Hope he's okay with "fifth best" … While his bitter and scornful personality may not get him a lot of party invitations, they have served him very well professionally … In 2009, Jericho almost single-handedly put the tag team division back on the WWE map … His championship alliance with Edge and later with The Big Show led to the WWE Unified tag team championship regularly being featured in main-event slots … Kept his momentum going after Jeri-Show dissolved and Jericho returned to singles competition … With a little help from Shawn Michaels, won his sixth world title in a grueling Elimination Chamber match in February … Went on to defend the WWE World title for the second time at a WrestleMania … May still be wearing the World title today had Jack Swagger not cashed in his Money in the Bank guaranteed title shot at a moment when Jericho was particularly vulnerable … Although he already had an exemplary career before leaving the sport in 2005 for a two-year hiatus, it's been since his return that he has done his very best work, both in the ring and on the microphone … Some of his detractors may disagree, but what would you expect from such mucilaginous troglodytes?



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### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Wrestling's biggest malcontent continues to moan and complain his way through a Hall of Fame career, and there's little evidence that he's slowing down in his 20th year in the sport. After a productive year on the Smackdown brand, Jericho is back on WWE's A-brand, Raw, where he has a strong chance of being featured as its top antagonist—especially in the wake of the departure of Batista and Randy Orton's transformation into a fan favorite. But after spending much of the past year competing in the tag team division and overseeing the progress of his *NXT* rookie Wade Barrett, it's critical that Jericho now refocuses on his singles career. His only world title reign in this grading period lasted just over one month. Jericho is a perfect foil for reigning WWE heavyweight champ John Cena, and has given Cena trouble in the past. Going forward, Jericho needs to firmly entrench himself in the very top mix in WWE. He has more than enough wrestling ability to win a spot there. And while some observers may wonder if Jericho's professional ventures outside the sport, including his acting and music careers, could threaten his future in wrestling, it seems more likely that the opposite is true. With the flexibility to be creatively fulfilled outside of wrestling, Jericho remains in the business for all the right reasons—because he's good at it and he enjoys it.

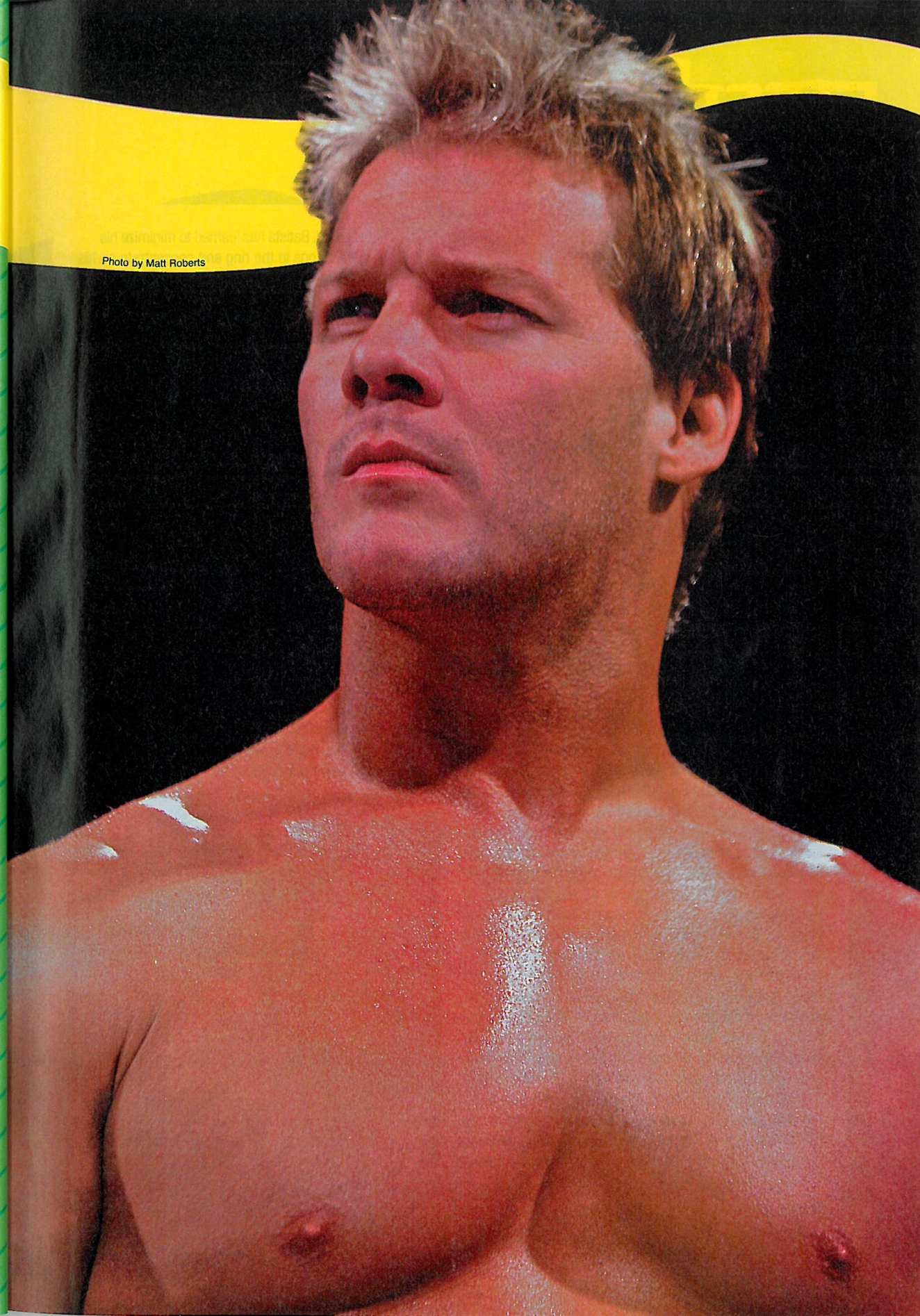


Photo by Matt Roberts

# PWI 500

## 6 BATISTA
(6'6", 290, 13, 16)

### PATH TO NUMBER 6:

257 in 2001, 28 in 2002, 20 in 2004, 1 in 2005, 23 in 2006, 13 in 2007, 15 in 2008, 16 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Captured his sixth world title by defeating John Cena in an impromptu bout moments after Cena had just won an Elimination Chamber match.

**2.** Obliterated former friend Rey Mysterio Jr. in a match at Survivor Series.

**3.** Defeated Randy Orton and Sheamus in a triple-threat match on the April 26 *Raw* to become number-one contender to the WWE heavyweight title.

**4.** Defeated Randy Orton in a no-holds-barred match on the September 14 *Raw*—his first match back in WWE after recovering from a torn left biceps.

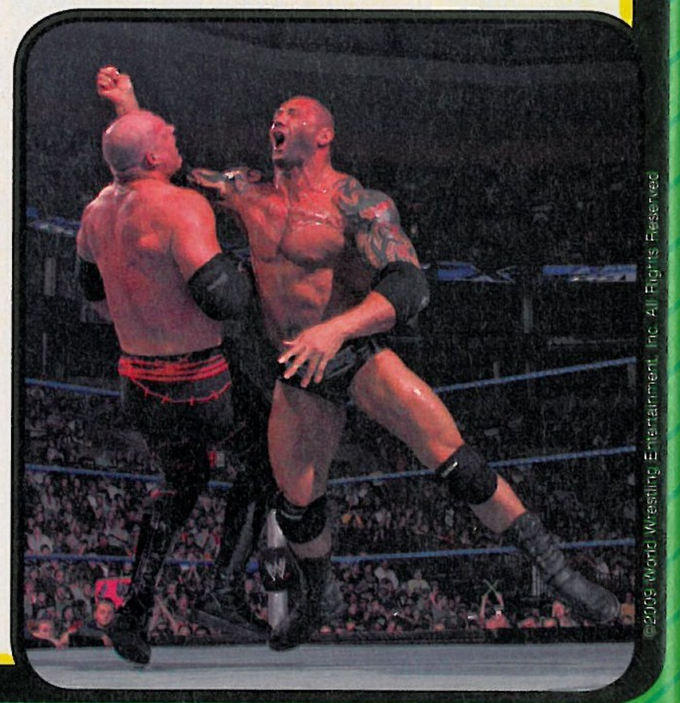
**5.** Destroyed Mysterio again in a streetfight on the December 11 *Smackdown* to become number-one contender to the WWE World title.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 6:

In terms of wins and losses or championship reigns, Batista may not have had the most successful year of his career between 2009 and 2010. But it was over the past 12 months that "The Animal" showed impressive new range as a performer … Transformation into one of the most compelling characters in the sport began with his disturbing attack on longtime friend Rey Mysterio Jr., whom Batista blamed for costing him the World title in a four-way match at Bragging Rights … The betrayal may have seemed out of character for the longtime fan favorite, but in reality, Batista's tunnel vision for world title gold dates back years … Motivations became apparent when he finally won the WWE heavyweight title from John Cena … Batista made it clear that he could not care less if fans cheered or booed him, and that his driving force was money … Batista's attitude change came with a far more aggressive style in the ring, which enabled the powerful Washington, D.C., native to plow through several opponents in seconds … Putting aside his reprehensible actions over the past year, it's worth noting that Batista has grown tremendously as a wrestler since debuting in WWE eight years ago … Once an uncoordinated clod, Batista has learned to minimize his limitations in the ring and concentrate on his gifts, namely, his unmatched power and intensity.

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Perhaps more than anyone else in the top 10, Batista is truly at a professional crossroads right now. After losing three straight world title matches on pay-per-view to John Cena, Batista quit WWE on the May 24 edition of *Raw*. Behind the scenes, rumors had swirled for weeks that Batista, being uncertain about his future in pro wrestling, was contemplating a Hollywood acting career. Having gotten a late start in the sport, it's understandable that Batista, who is 41, would consider a different career path at this point. The muscular six-time world champion is notoriously prone to injuries, and has to be wondering how much more his body can take before it completely gives out on him. Unfortunately, Batista's second thoughts about a wrestling career come just as he seemed to be hitting his stride as one of WWE's most well-rounded main-event stars. As such, it's possible (and maybe even likely) that, after recharging his batteries for a while, Batista will return to the sport feeling rejuvenated and ready to make the most of his talents as a wrestler. But while it's possible that Batista could take a few years off and return to WWE as a bigger star than ever, he'd also be in his mid-40s by then. It seems "The Animal" is facing some very human decisions.



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Photo by George Napolitano

# PWI 500

## 7 SHINSUKE NAKAMURA
(6'2", 245, 8, 24)

### PATH TO NUMBER 7:
10 in 2008, 24 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:
**1.** Successfully defended his IWGP heavyweight title against Yoshihiro Takayama in an epic "strong style" slugfest at the January Tokyo Dome Show, Japan's equivalent to WrestleMania.

**2.** Went undefeated in the 2009 G1 Climax Tournament until falling to Togi Makabe in the final round.

**3.** Avenged his loss to Makabe the G1 by besting him in a decision match to win the IWGP heavyweight championship less than three weeks later.

**4.** Pinned 2010 New Japan Cup winner (and his former protégé) Hirooki Goto in one of the most acclaimed matches of the year.

**5.** Flattened Japanese strong man Manabu Nakanishi at Tokyo's Sumo Hall in February in sixth consecutive defense of his title.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 7:
Destined for success since his high-profile debut in 2002, Nakamura has finally grown into the role of main-eventer … Devoted himself to his new "Strong Style Resurrection" persona in 2009, determined to revive the "strong style" of New Japan in an era where entertainment and showiness receives more emphasis than athletic competition … Leading a group of bad boys called CHAOS, Nakamura himself has remained a no-nonsense fighter and is continuing his evolution from young underdog to dominant champion with physical and intense matches … After injuring his greatest rival, Hiroshi Tanahashi, and then winning the IWGP title Tanahashi was forced to vacate, Nakamura went on a rampage, pinning all comers … Some of the Japanese industry's most recognizable stars, including Yuji Nagata, Shinjiro Otani, Takayama, and Tanahashi fell to his brutal Boma Ye (running knee to the face) … Lost the title just shy of eight months into his reign, falling to Togi Makabe in an upset this May … Despite the title loss, his impressive reign put him at the forefront of New Japan … Tall, tough, and talented, the former "super rookie" is an expert in submissions, making him a dangerous all-around wrestler … His Boma Ye finisher is now one of the most feared in New Japan … At 30 years old, has many years of success ahead of him and is poised to remain a top player in the Japanese scene.

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:
Losing the IWGP heavyweight title to Makabe in May was unexpected to many, as Nakamura never seemed the slightest bit vulnerable. Though nursing a shoulder injury at press time, Nakamura was expected to target the IWGP belt upon his return. The perfect way to earn a shot would be to win New Japan's prestigious G1 Climax tournament in August, one of the few achievements Nakamura has yet to manage in his short but eventful career. Although the leader of New Japan's main heel force CHAOS, Nakamura leaves all the dirty work to his second-in-command, Toru Yano, but must be wary of a coup d'état attempt from the ruthless and ambitious Yano in the future. Having beaten much of New Japan's roster, there is a good possibility he could become involved in interpromotional feuds in the future. New Japan's working relationships with TNA, CMLL, Pro Wrestling NOAH, and ZERO-1 could potentially open many doors. Long-term, he is destined to sit at the top of New Japan for many years to come along with his arch-rival Tanahashi.

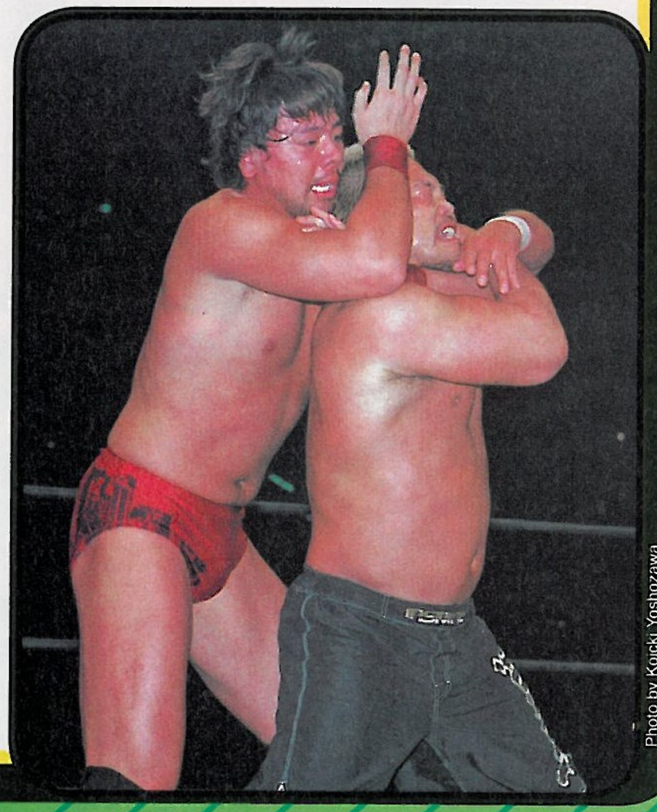
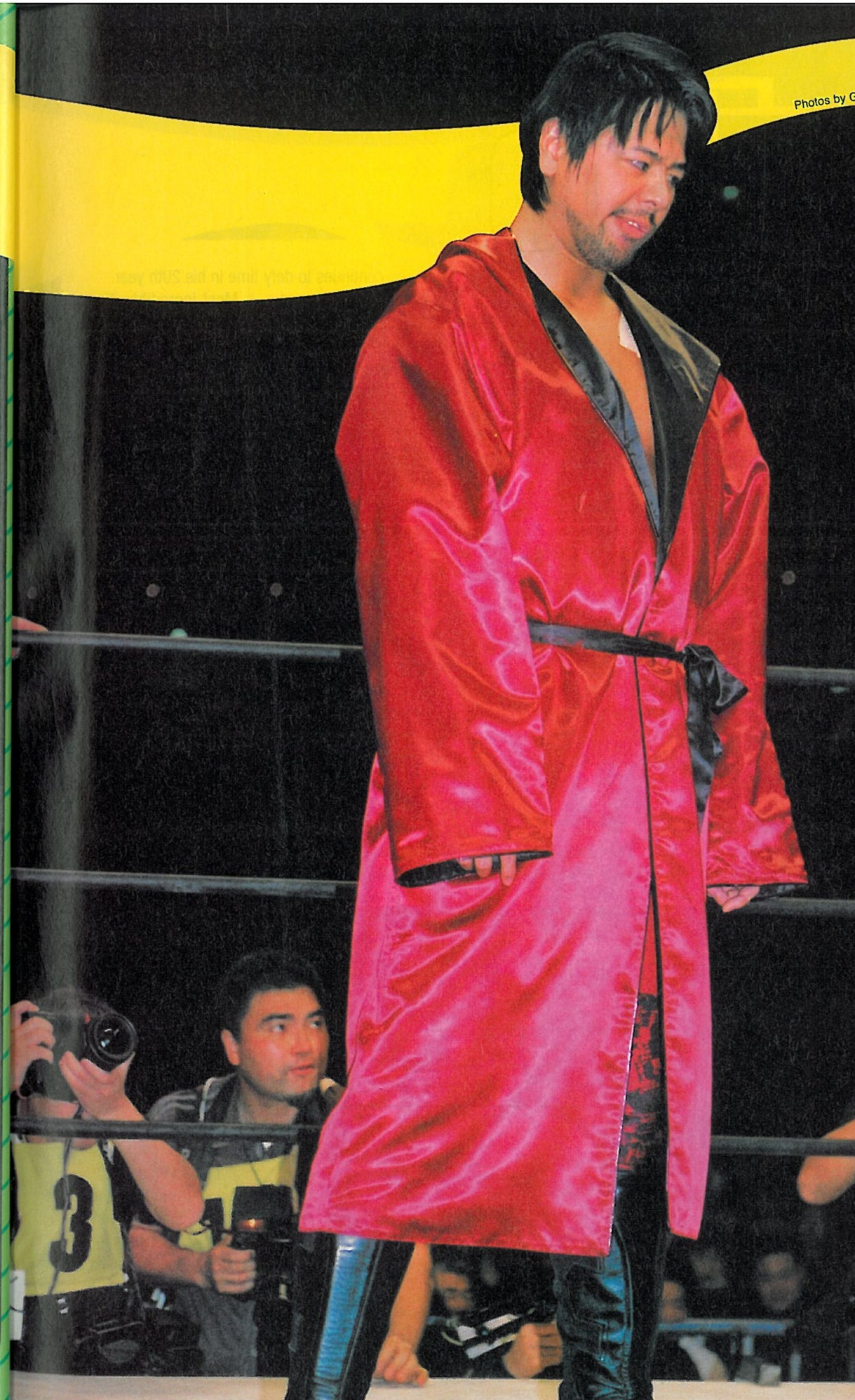


Photo by Koichi Yoshozawa



Photos by G

# PWL500

## 8 THE UNDERTAKER
(6'10", 304, 21, 11)

### PATH TO NUMBER 8:

21 in 1992, 46 in 1993, 23 in 1994, 14 in 1995, 19 in 1996, 6 in 1997, 5 in 1998, 8 in 1999, NL in 2000, 11 in 2001, 2 in 2002, 18 in 2003, 23 in 2004, 26 in 2005, 59 in 2006, 5 in 2007, 6 in 2008, 11 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Retired Shawn Michaels and extended his WrestleMania winning streak to 18-0 in a spectacular rematch of their 2009 battle.

**2.** Won his seventh world title by beating C.M. Punk in a Hell in a Cell battle in October.

**3.** Defeated Batista in a World title chair match at Tables, Ladders, and Chairs.

**4.** Beat tag team champion partners The Big Show and Chris Jericho in a triple-threat match to retain his World title at Survivor Series.

**5.** Retained the World title against Rey Mysterio Jr. in a thrilling bout at the Royal Rumble.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 8:

WWE's most iconic performer added to his already amazing legacy over the past year with a seventh world title reign, a number of high-profile victories, and perhaps the most impressive of his 18 WrestleMania victories ... Was largely inactive after his WrestleMania 25 victory until returning in September of 2009 to challenge for C.M. Punk's World title ... Made up for lost time by quickly capturing the title and successfully defending it at four consecutive pay-per-view events ... WWE's longest tenured active competitor continues to defy time in his 20th year with the company ... Most incredibly, The Undertaker's matches are consistently better today than they were when he was two decades younger ... Has no fewer than four devastating finishing moves, including his chokeslam, his Last Ride power bomb, his Hell's Gate submission choke hold, and, of course, his Tombstone piledriver ... It was the latter that secured The Undertaker one of the most satisfying victories of his career when he beat Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania 26 ... As stipulated, Michaels retired after the match—leaving no doubt as to who WWE's one, true reigning legend is.

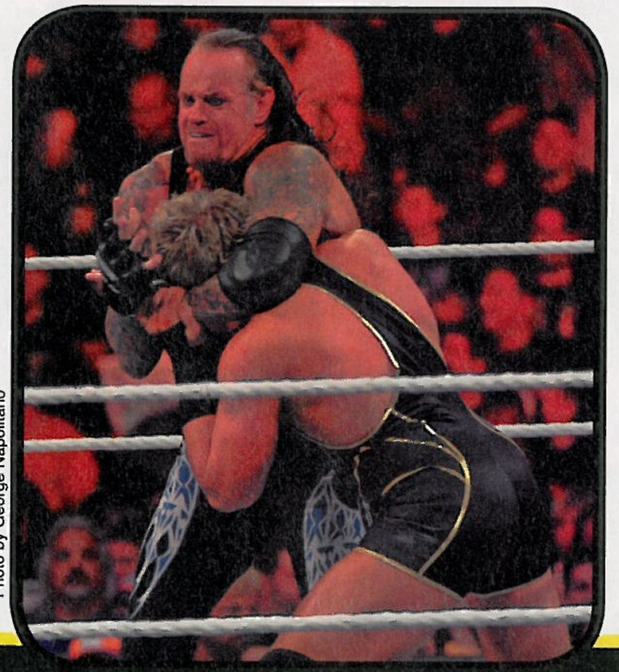


Photo by George Napolitano

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

After competing at such a high level for so many years, one has to think that The Undertaker is nearing the end of his career. Then again, it seems we wrote that last year. And the year before that. Indeed, it's impossible to tell whether WWE's resident phenom has another year of active competition left in him, or another 10. It's true that The Undertaker has already slowed down his pace considerably over the past few years. Except for his reign as World champion, 'Taker's appearances have been sporadic, as nagging injuries have continued to mount. He has wrestled just a handful of matches since WrestleMania 26, and, as of press time, was forced to pull out of a scheduled World title match at WWE's Fatal 4-Way show because of an injury. But one thing is for certain: Like all great "clutch" athletes in pro sports, The Undertaker is sure to have his game face on come WrestleMania 27, where he looks to extend his unparalleled winning streak to 19-0. But who is left to challenge the "Dead Man"? The biggest money match on the table is likely against John Cena, who got a taste of 'Taker's wrath in November, when he was on the receiving end of a Tombstone at *Raw* in Madison Square Garden. Come WM27, it would be foolish to bet against The Undertaker, no matter who is standing opposite him in the ring.

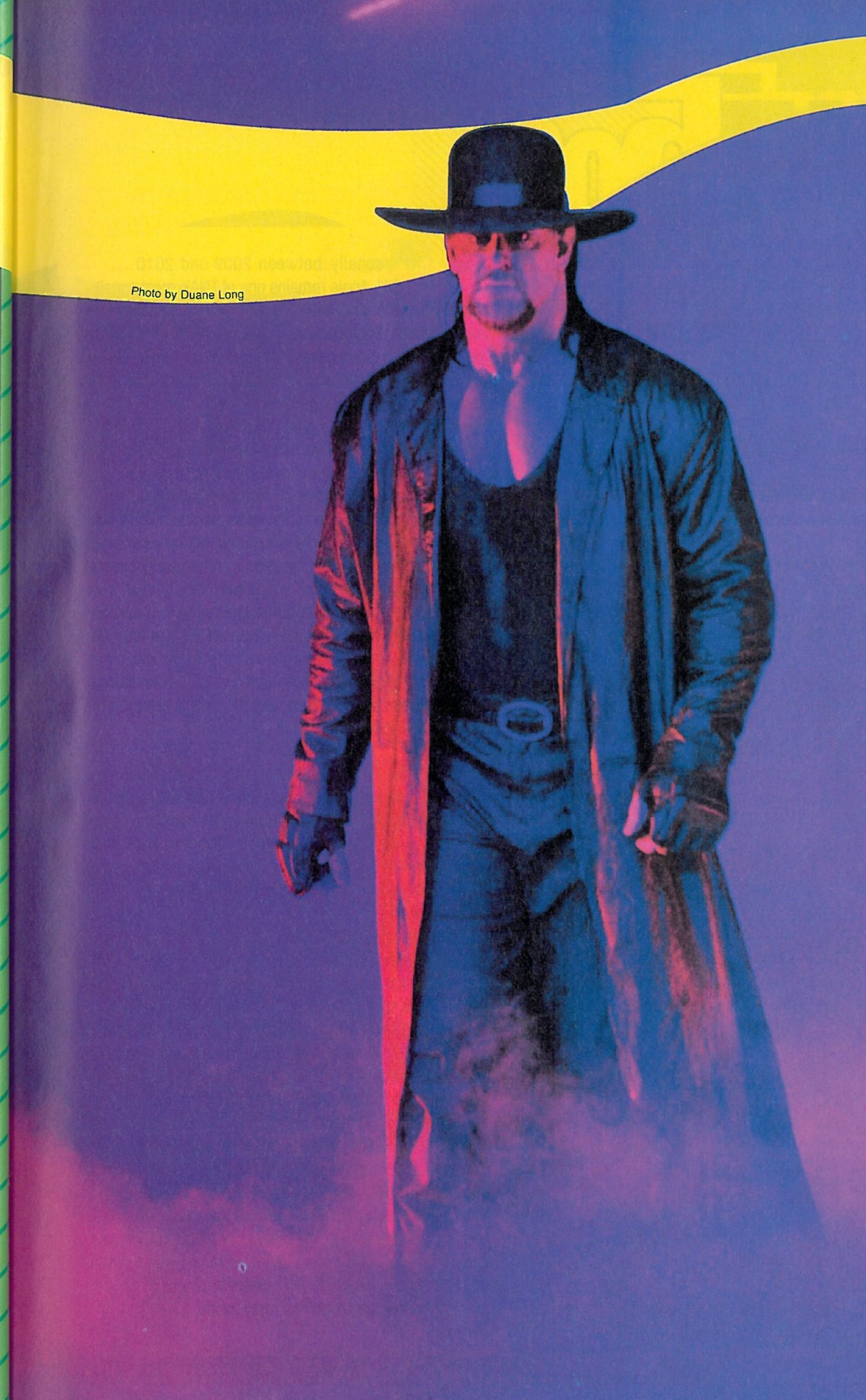


Photo by Duane Long

# PWI 500

## 9 KURT ANGLE
(6'1", 233, 11, 12)

### PATH TO NUMBER 9:

313 in 2000, 1 in 2001, 6 in 2002, 3 in 2003, 36 in 2004, 6 in 2005, 2 in 2006, 4 in 2007, 2 in 2008, 12 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:

**1.** Beat Sting and Matt Morgan in a three-way match to retain his TNA World title at Hard Justice.

**2.** Beat Ken Anderson in a steel cage grudge match at Lockdown.

**3.** Bested Desmond Wolfe in a thriller at the Turning Point pay-per-view.

**4.** Defeated Matt Morgan in a stellar singles match at TNA's premiere annual event, Bound for Glory.

**5.** Beat Wolfe in a submission match and then in a cage match to win a "Three Degrees Of Pain" series at December's Final Resolution show.

### WHY HE'S NUMBER 9:

Professional wrestling's only Olympic gold medalist had an especially challenging year, both professionally and personally, between 2009 and 2010 … Still, Angle remains one of TNA's most consistent performers, and one of the most athletically gifted competitors the sport has ever seen … Wore the TNA World title early in the grading period before losing it to AJ Styles in a four-way championship match at No Surrender … After predominantly playing the role of a rulebreaker in recent years, decided to take a more virtuous path late in 2009, following the collapse of the Main Event Mafia … Has since been the picture of the traditional wrestling hero—fighting for his fans and his country … Helped make a star out of Matt Morgan by having an outstanding match against him at Bound for Glory … Did the same with TNA newcomer Desmond Wolfe a few months later … After losing a series of matches against TNA champion Styles, took a break from his World title quest and became embroiled in a particularly intense rivalry with Ken Anderson … The feud climaxed with Angle winning a bloody cage match at Lockdown … Afterward, Angle announced he was taking a brief break and would return with the goal of winning his fourth TNA World title.



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:

Once TNA's most recognizable name, Angle's star power has been eclipsed a bit by the company's acquisition of former WWE stars, including Jeff Hardy, Rob Van Dam, Hulk Hogan, and Ric Flair. Still, Angle remains head and shoulders above all those names—and just about everyone on TNA's roster—when it comes to the ability to deliver a quality wrestling match. The fact that Angle has been lost in the shuffle at times, combined with the fact that TNA has not grown as much as Angle hoped when he came to the company in 2006, may have him questioning his own value. But, at 41 years old and with a whole lot of mileage on his sturdy frame, it may be a bit late for Angle to start over again. He continues to claim that he is still giving thought to trying his hand in mixed martial arts. Considering his amateur wrestling credentials, it stands to reason that an MMA career would be a good fit. But Angle is likely too old and too beaten up to make a serious go inside the octagon. Angle has also taken a few film roles recently, but it's apparent that Angle's first love is pro wrestling, and that he would love to remain an important part of the sport as long as he is physically capable. And so, it's likely that for the foreseeable future, Angle will remain in TNA, where fresh matchups with Van Dam, Hardy, and even Flair may await.

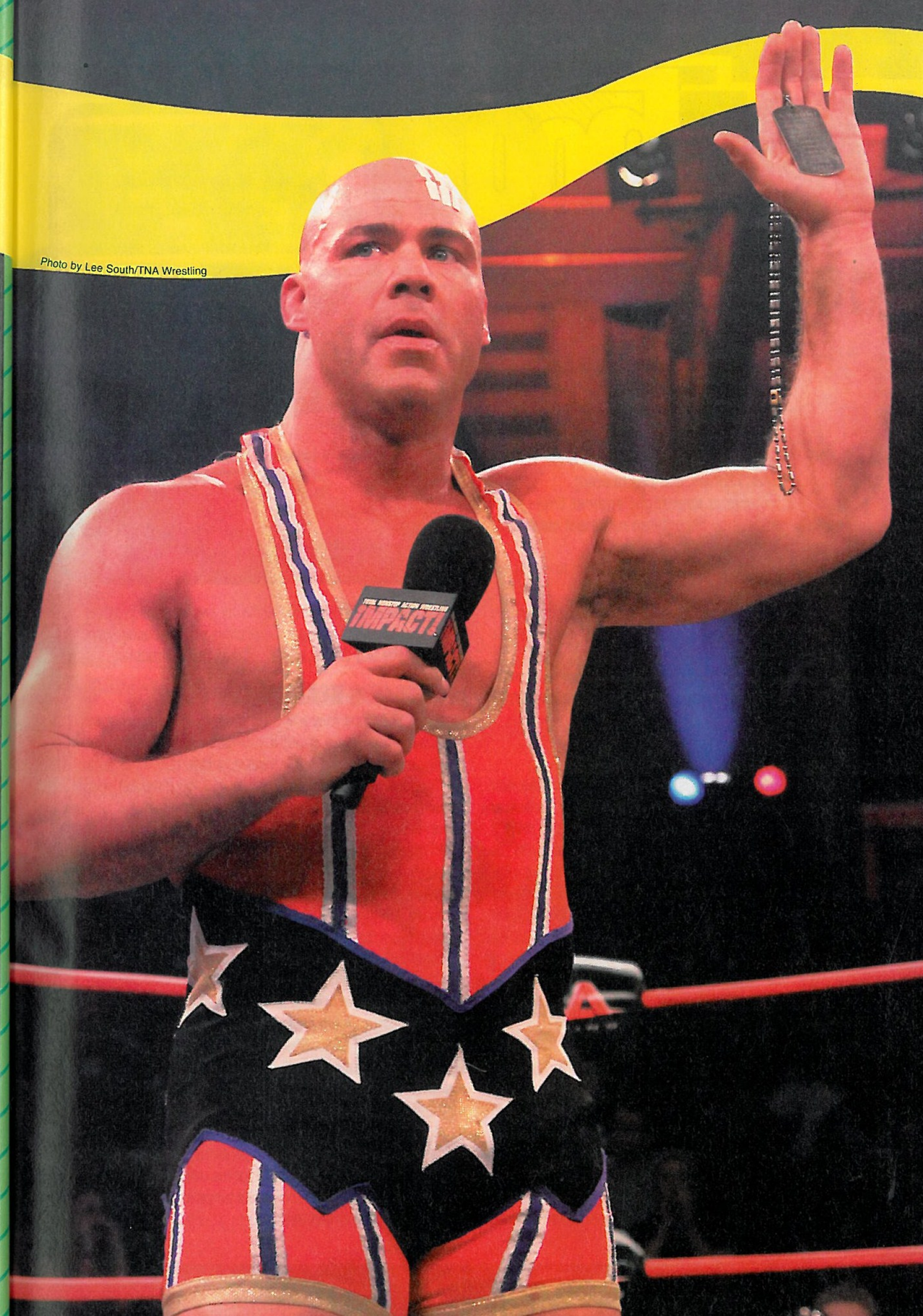


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

# PWI 500

## 10 SHEAMUS
(6'6", 272, 8, 94)

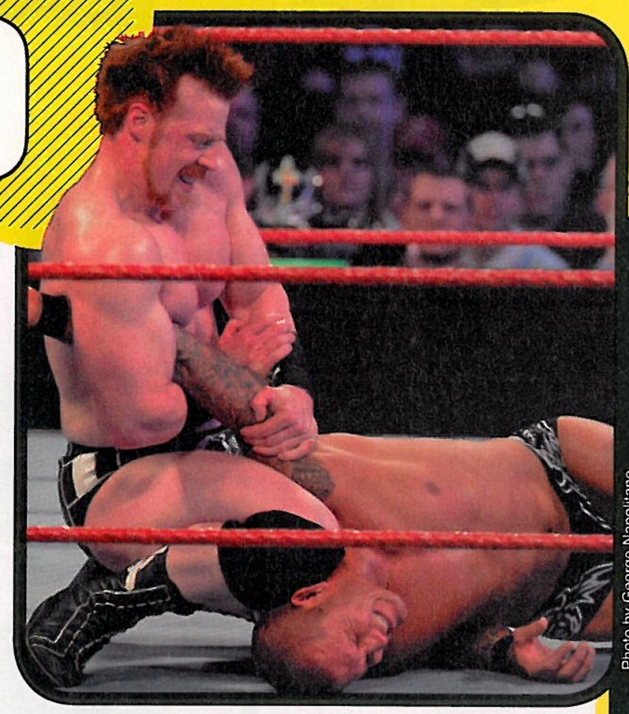


Photo by George Napolitano

### PATH TO NUMBER 10:
226 in 2008, 94 in 2009

### TOP FIVE MOMENTS OF THE YEAR:
**1.** Scored one the year's biggest upset when he defeated John Cena in a tables match to win the WWE title at December's Tables, Ladders, and Chairs event.

**2.** Won a hellacious streetfight against Triple-H at Extreme Rules that saw his veteran opponent carried off on a stretcher.

**3.** Defeated Randy Orton by disqualification to retain the WWE title at the Royal Rumble.

**4.** Won an eight-man Breakthrough Battle Royal on the November 23 *Raw* to become number-one contender to John Cena's WWE title.

**5.** Along with The Miz and Drew McIntyre, won a five-on-five elimination tag team match at the 2009 Survivor Series.

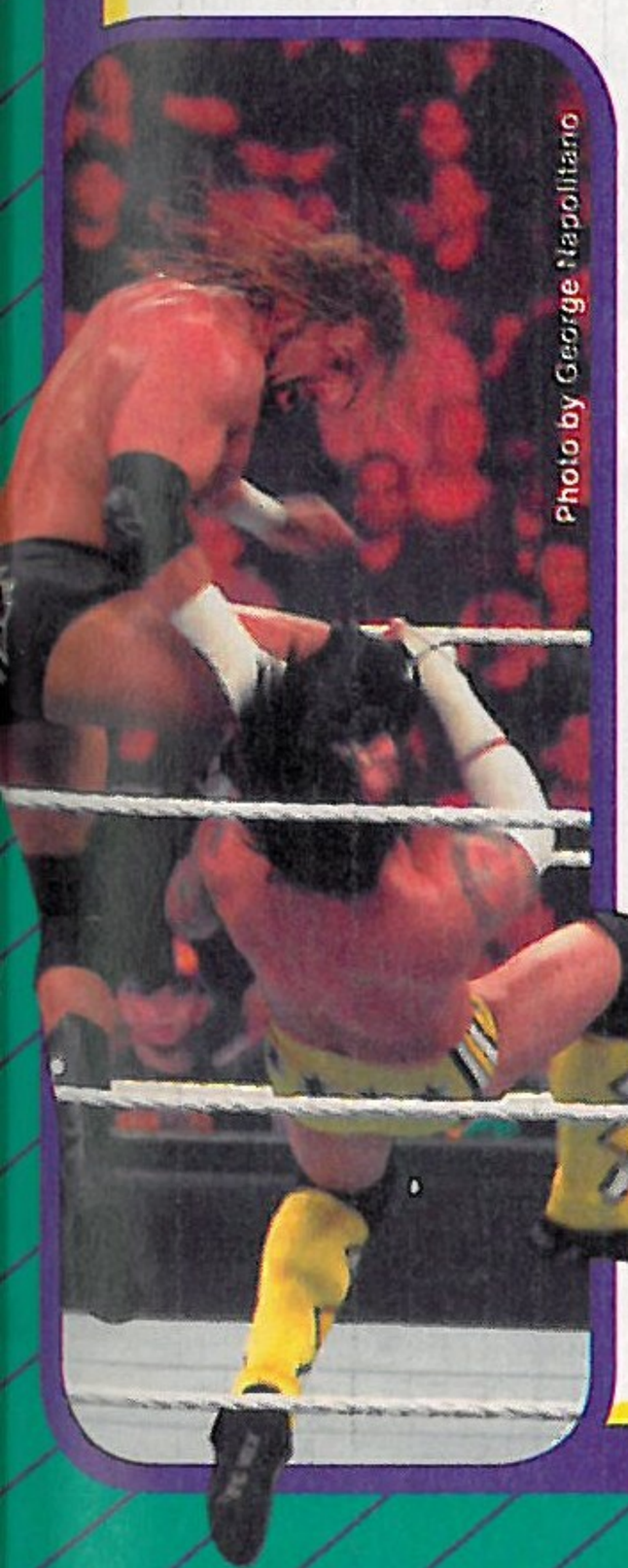
### WHY HE'S NUMBER 10:
The "Celtic Warrior's" rise through WWE's ranks has been nothing short of meteoric—as evidenced by his limited history on this list … After spending two years in WWE's developmental system, debuted in ECW in June 2009 … After quickly dominating his competition on that brand, was called up to Raw in October… Within a month, earned a pay-per-view WWE World title shot against John Cena … On December 13, won the WWE heavyweight title—eclipsing Brock Lesnar's record for shortest time between a TV debut and a world title victory … Although he never pinned Cena to win the title (he put him through a table in a special stipulation match), Sheamus has gone on to prove that his two-month title reign was no fluke … Held his own in a hard-fought match against WWE legend Triple-H in his first WrestleMania appearance … Lured Triple-H into a rematch by attacking him the night after WrestleMania, as Triple-H was paying tribute to his retiring friend, Shawn Michaels … Went on to decimate Triple-H in a streetfight a month later… Dublin native honed his craft in various European wrestling promotions for three years before joining Florida Championship Wrestling —WWE's developmental affiliate … Wore the FCW heavyweight title for two months in 2008 after beating Jack Swagger … Brutish, power-based style is part Davey Boy Smith, part Goldberg, but *all* trouble.

### WHERE HE'S HEADED:
While Sheamus may still be considered a newcomer by WWE's standards, he is not a youngster. At 32 years old, Sheamus knew he did not not want to lose too much time paying dues. To that end, he came out of the gate last year with incredible momentum, and was being pegged by some observers as a future headliner by the end of his first televised match. While the next six months of his career may have been among the most impressive of any WWE competitor, his progress slowed a bit after he lost the title in February. Sheamus' primary directive going forward has to be to firmly entrench himself among the WWE elite. He took an important step in that direction by qualifying for the WWE heavyweight title main event at June's Fatal 4-Way pay-per-view. But for Sheamus to leapfrog some of his colleagues on the WWE ladder, he'll have to do more than just win matches or even world titles. Sheamus will have to continue to expand and improve his skill set, both as a wrestler and as a showman, if he is to gain acceptance from fans and matchmakers as a true top-tier player. He's shown tremendous confidence so far in calling out some of the sport's biggest names, and not giving up an inch even when being mocked by his adversaries either for his unique appearance or lack of experience. As long as Sheamus keeps acting like a star, he'll likely remain one.

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# 11 TO 14

**11 TRIPLE-H** (6'4", 260, 18, 1) Long-tenured WWE veteran remains a fixture in the main-event scene, despite not wearing a world title during the entire grading period … Spent the second half of 2009 teaming with D-X partner Shawn Michaels in feuds against Ted DiBiase Jr. and Cody Rhodes and later against Chris Jericho and The Big Show … Both rivalries led to pay-per-view main-event bouts, including a December tables, ladders, and chairs match in which D-X won the WWE Unified tag team championship … Returned to singles action after dropping the belts to The Big Show and The Miz in February … Went on to have a high-profile feud with Sheamus, whom Helmsley claims reminds him of a young version of himself … Beat "The Celtic Warrior" at WrestleMania 26, but lost in a streetfight rematch at Extreme Rules … Took some time off in the spring to film a movie, and was also spotted helping Linda McMahon on the Senatorial campaign trail … Remains one of the most influential wrestlers in the sport, and the foremost practitioner of the so-called "WWE main-event style."

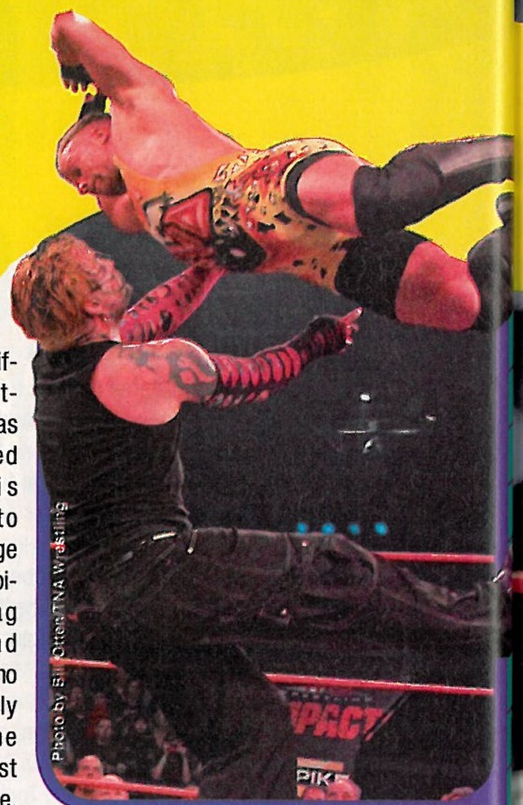

Photo by George Napolitano

**12 THE MIZ** (6'1", 231, 7, 56) Former cast member of MTV's *Real World* became one of the hottest acts in WWE for a time … Beat Kofi Kingston in October to win the U.S. title and held the championship for more than seven months before dropping it to Bret Hart in May … Simultaneously held the WWE Unified tag team championship for three months with his partner, The Big Show, in a duo dubbed Show-Miz … Retained the tag title against John Morrison and R-Truth at WrestleMania 26 … Tremendous speaking skills have made the Ohio native one of WWE's most reviled antagonists … Also was part of a highly entertaining storyline that saw him berate his "rookie"—former Ring of Honor heavyweight champion Bryan Danielson—throughout the entire first season of *WWE NXT* … Has made major strides in his wrestling ability, though his momentum waned somewhat in the latter stages of the grading period … Was bested by Danielson in an early-June showdown on *Raw* … Uses a full-nelson facebuster he calls the Skull Crushin' Finale to finish opponents.

**13 REY MYSTERIO JR.** (5'6", 175, 21, 26) Masked dynamo is consistently one of WWE's most popular wrestlers … Wore the Intercontinental title for three months early in the grading period … Feuded with Dolph Ziggler over the championship and beat him at SummerSlam … Despite staying injury-free, lost some ring time after being suspended for a Wellness Policy violation in September … After losing a Fatal Four-way world title match at Bragging Rights, was viciously attacked by fellow contestant and longtime friend Batista … The two went on to have a heated rivalry that saw Mysterio suffer some horrific beatdowns … Finally scored an upset win against Batista in a steel cage match that led to a WWE World title match against The Undertaker at the Royal Rumble … Was unsuccessful in that match and in a World title Elimination Chamber bout the following month … Spent several months this year in a particularly intense rivalry with C.M. Punk … Won two of three pay-per-view matches against Punk, including one that concluded with Mysterio shaving Punk's head.

**14 TAKASHI SUGIURA** (5'10", 229, 10, NL) A former amateur wrestling star and self-defense instructor, Pro Wrestling NOAH's resident tough man has fought his way from the very bottom to become the unlikely star of the promotion this year … Captured the GHC heavyweight title from Go Shiozaki at the end of 2009 and has held it since … Competed in New Japan several times in the past year, reaching the semifinals of the 2009 G1 Climax and successfully defending his GHC title against Hirooki Goto on January's Tokyo Dome show … Another New Japan opponent, Togi Makabe, fell to Sugiura's top-rope Olympic slam in February … Seems destined for a showdown with his mentor, Yoshihiro Takayama … Not the biggest wrestler around but he makes up for that with an effective combination of power and technique … Often nicknamed the "Japanese Kurt Angle," as he uses both the Olympic slam and anklelock as finishing moves.

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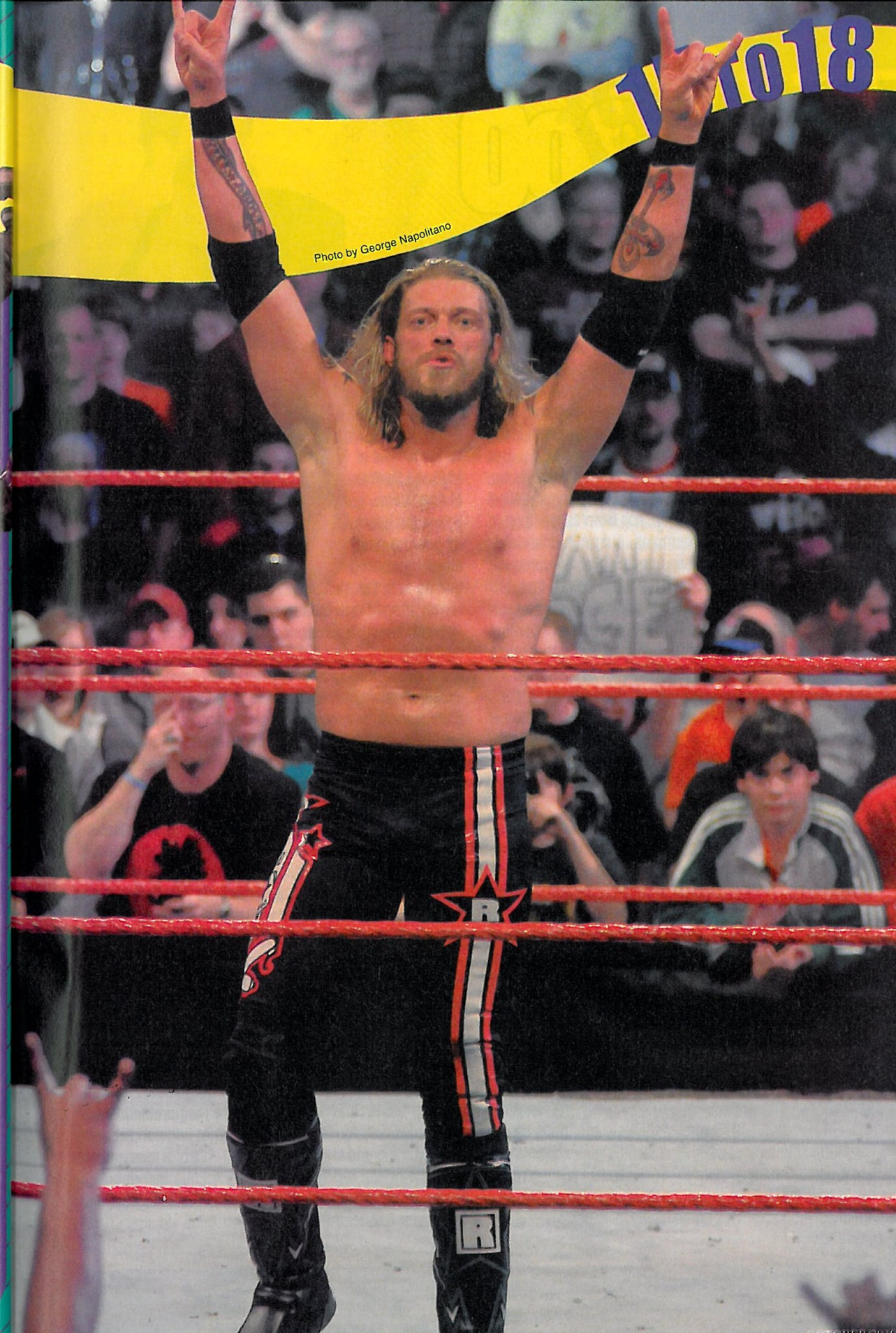

Photo by Bill Otten/TNA Wrestling

**15 ROB VAN DAM** (6', 237, 20, NL) Consistently cool competitor joined TNA in March after being largely inactive for more than two years … Pinned Sting in less than 10 seconds in surprise debut on the March 8 *Impact* … Just over a month later, defeated Jeff Hardy in an *Impact* match to determine the number-one contender to TNA World title … Later that night, ended AJ Styles' seven-month title reign by pinning him after a Five-Star frog splash to win his first world championship since 2006 … Retained the title in defenses against Styles, Desmond Wolfe, and even ex-WWE tag team partner Booker T, at a non-televised event … Before joining TNA, made a special appearance in January at Pro Wrestling Guerilla, where he defeated Chris Hero and Roderick Strong in a three-way match … Laid back Michigan native is a step or two slower from his days tearing up the ECW Arena with Jerry Lynn, but still one of TNA's most well-conditioned and exciting athletes.

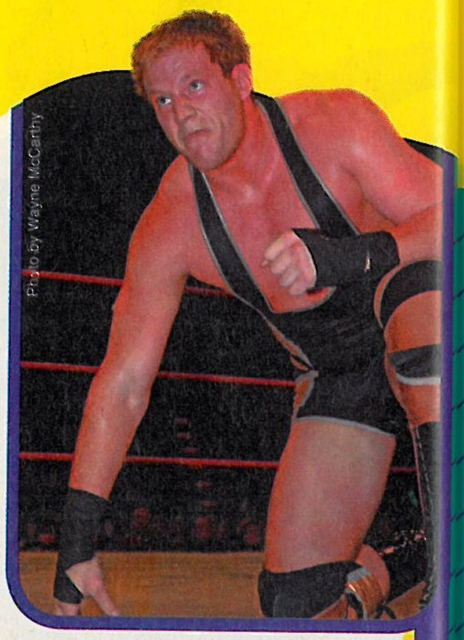
**16 DR. WAGNER JR.** (5'10", 210, 24, 57) The "Doctor Of Good" became an instant star upon his arrival in AAA and one of lucha's top draws over the past year … Defeated Mesias for the AAA title at TripleMania 28 in a grueling half-hour match … Victory made him a double-heavyweight champion, holding both AAA and UWA belts … Continued to battle Mesias for the title in hardcore and cage matches … Also feuded with Cibernetico … Created his own stable called the Wagnermaniacos with his brother Silver King, veteran Electroshock, and rookie Ultimo Gladiador … Lost the title to Mesias in an anything-goes domed-cage match after getting pinned with the forbidden Martinete (inverted piledriver) … Had a brief feud with Pimpinela after rejecting him as a Wagnermaniac … When Electroshock won the title, Wagner was kicked out of his own group, being labeled as a loser … Formed alliances with Octagon and Pimpinela to battle his former friends … Challenged Electroshock for the AAA title … Uses the Wagner driver as his finishing maneuver.

**17 THE BIG SHOW** (7'2", 485, 15, 25) The so-called "World's Largest Athlete" has had something of a career resurgence 11 years after his WWE debut … Found success in the tag team ranks over the past year and wore the WWE Unified tag team championship twice, with two different partners … Was handpicked by Chris Jericho to replace Edge in his championship tag team, and helped Jericho successfully defend the title against Cryme Tyme, Batista and Rey Mysterio Jr., and other tandems … In February joined with The Miz and held the tag team championship for three months … Was drafted from Raw to Smackdown in April, and debuted on the blue brand as a fan favorite … Was named number-one contender to Jack Swagger's World title, and beat the champion by disqualification at May's Over the Limit pay-per-view event … Key to most of his victories is a devastating right hand that knocks out anyone who comes in contact with it … After losing more than 100 pounds between 2008 and 2009, appears to be as burly as ever.

**18 EDGE** (6'4", 240, 18, 4) Toronto native spent the first half of the grading period on the disabled list after suffering a torn Achilles tendon that forced him to relinquish the tag team championship he held with Chris Jericho … Made his surprise return at January's Royal Rumble 30-man match, in which he entered at number 29 and went on to win … Took aim at former partner Jericho, but lost in a World title challenge against Jericho at WrestleMania 26 … Beat Jericho the following month in an Extreme Rules cage match, but Jericho had already lost the title by then … After trying to cater to fans for a few months, showed his true colors shortly after being drafted from Smackdown to Raw in April … Became embroiled in a feud with former Rated RKO tag team partner Randy Orton … A match between the two at Over the Limit ended in a double-countout … A nine-time world champion.


Photo by George Napolitano

# PWI 500


Photo by Wayne McCarthy

## 19 TYLER BLACK (6'1", 210, 5, 17)

Iowa native achieved a childhood dream in February by becoming Ring of Honor heavyweight champion … Title victory against Austin Aries came after falling short in several previous title opportunities, including a match against Aries in ROH's first Internet pay-per-view, Final Battle 2009, in December … Successfully defended the title against Aries and Roderick Strong in a three-way elimination match in the main event of April's Big Bang Internet pay-per-view … Has also retained the title in singles matches against Strong, Kenny King, and Chris Hero … Since the departures of Nigel McGuinness and Bryan Danielson, has been called upon to not only lead ROH as its champion, but as its standard-bearer … As such, has done an admirable job of representing the company in the media … Revealed the fact that ROH had instituted a ban on dangerous chair shots to the head … Lanky competitor has an innovative wrestling style that incorporates his dazzling agility … Superkick finisher might give Shawn Michaels' a run for its money.

## 20 JEFF HARDY (6'1", 225, 17, 13)

Controversial 17-year veteran competed as a headliner in both WWE and TNA during the grading period … In July of 2009, won his third WWE World title by defeating C.M. Punk at Night of Champions … Lost the title back to Punk in a memorable tables, ladders, and chairs match at SummerSlam … Was defeated by Punk in a loser-leaves-WWE steel cage match later that month … Soon after his departure, was arrested on drug trafficking charges … Made his return to TNA, where he had competed between 2004 and 2006, in January … Attacked Homicide after a Steel Asylum cage match … Did not return until March, and has since been one of TNA's top stars … Has picked up wins against AJ Styles and Ken Anderson, and was part of Team Hogan as it won a Lethal Lockdown cage match against Team Flair … At the peak of his career, has been arguably one of the most popular wrestlers of the past decade.

## 21 JACK SWAGGER (6'4", 263, 4, 18)

Former collegiate standout had a career-making three days in April, and reigned as the WWE World champion at press time … After a successful stint on the ECW brand that included a run as champion, "The All-American American" was drafted to Raw in June of 2009 … Career floundered quite a bit following the move, as Swagger competed low on cards and dropped matches to the likes of MVP and Santino Marella … Scored an upset by besting nine other competitors to win the Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 26 … Attempted to cash in his guaranteed world title shot the very next night on *Raw* against John Cena, but changed his mind at the last second … The night after that, cashed in the title shot on *Smackdown* against a depleted WWE World champ Chris Jericho, and shocked the wrestling world by winning the title … Has adopted a far more serious approach since becoming champion … Defeated Randy Orton at Extreme Rules to retain the title.

## 22 CHRISTIAN (6'1", 224, 15, 28)

"Captain Charisma" all but dominated the ECW brand in his first year back in WWE after a three-year plus stint in TNA … Second ECW title reign began early in the grading period—July 2009— and lasted until he lost the title to Ezekiel Jackson on the brand's last night in existence in February … His successful title defenses along the way against the likes of Zack Ryder, Yoshi Tatsu, and William Regal provided some of the best bell-to-bell wrestling action of any weekly WWE television program … Early pioneer of the tables, ladders, and chairs match beat Shelton Benjamin in a thrilling ladder match on pay-per-view in December … Briefly became part of the Raw roster after ECW folded, and was then drafted to Smackdown … Had a memorable in-ring showdown with former tag team partner Edge on his first night on the brand … Made it to the finals of a tournament to fill the briefly vacant Intercontinental title before being beaten by Kofi Kingston … Quick-witted Canadian calls his facebuster finisher the Kill Switch.


Photo by Koichi Yoshizawa

# 19 TO 26

## 23 ABYSS (6'10", 350, 11, 96)

Deranged big man spent much of 2009 feuding with Dr. Stevie Richards … Complicated love-hate relationship with Mick Foley has led to the two both teaming up and trying to destroy each other over the past year … Defeated Foley in a wild Monster's Ball match at Bound for Glory after putting the hardcore legend through a barbed-wire board … After being intimidated for weeks by incoming TNA authority figure Eric Bischoff, Hulk Hogan boosted Abyss' self-esteem by giving him his WWE Hall of Fame ring—and with it the power of all the Hulkamaniacs … Teamed with Hogan to defeat Ric Flair and AJ Styles in a blockbuster *Impact* tag team main event in March … Wrestled TNA World champion AJ Styles to a no-contest in the bizarre main event of March's Destination X PPV, which ended with Styles and a number of other wrestlers falling through a hole in the ring … Defeated Flair in a singles match in which the "Nature Boy" put his own WWE Hall of Fame ring on the line.

## 24 RYOTA HAMA (5'9", 450, 2, NL)

All Japan Pro Wrestling's former sumo superstar has turned out to be quite a find, storming his way to the top in record time … Teaming with his mentor, the famous sumo wrestler Akebono, Hama captured the All-Asia tag team title in the first year of his career … Still holding that championship, Hama shook the foundations of the Japanese wrestling industry this March when he pinned Satoshi Kojima at Sumo Hall in Tokyo to win the prestigious Triple Crown championship … The victory made him the fastest Triple Crown winner in its illustrious history, just 503 days into his career … Couldn't follow up successfully, finishing only fourth in his block in All Japan's Champion Carnival … In his first defense of the Triple Crown, he lost it to Champion Carnival winner Minoru Suzuki … Despite the short reign, his quick rise has turned heads and made him a prominent figure in All Japan … Finishes matches with the Ryota Hammer, a vertical suplex turned into a powerslam, devastating to any opponent considering his 450-pound frame.

## 25 AUSTIN ARIES (5'9", 202, 9, 23)

Ring of Honor's only two-time heavyweight champion enjoyed an eight-month reign from June of last year until February of this year … Tried his best to avoid serious threats to his title by picking his opponents in a rigged lottery, but along the way successfully defended his belt against several worthy challengers, including Kenny Omega, Colt Cabana, and Nigel McGuinness … Recruited Rhett Titus and Kenny King to watch his back … Retained the title in a 60-minute draw against Tyler Black in December, but lost it to Black two months later … After failing to regain the belt in a three-way rematch at Big Bang, has turned his attention to Delirious … Viciously attacked the masked man and his female friend Daizee Haze … Slick-talking "A-Double" is nothing like the lion-hearted warrior fans admired for years before his attitude change late in 2008 … Nevertheless, his wrestling ability remains unquestioned … Exhibits lightning fast speed in the ring, especially when accelerating from a standstill position … ROH's most tenured main-event player.

## 26 KOFI KINGSTON (6'1", 218, 5, 35)

Charismatic native of Ghana climbed up WWE's developmental system to become one of the company's most popular and promising young stars … Wore the U.S. championship for four months in 2009, and successfully defended it against Carlito, The Big Show, and others before finally dropping the belt to The Miz in October … Had a star-making performance during a November *Raw* from Madison Square Garden when he dove from a railing onto Randy Orton as he lay on a table … Went on to be the sole survivor in a four-on-four elimination match against a team captained by Orton at Survivor Series … Was drafted to Smackdown in April … Won a tournament to fill the vacant Intercontinental title, only to have Smackdown GM Teddy Long force him—under orders from Vince McMahon—to return the title to Drew McIntyre … Beat McIntyre for the title a few weeks later at Over the Limit … Was originally billed as hailing from Jamaica, before acknowledging his true West African origin last year … Has one of the most impressive vertical leaps in the sport.

# PWI 500

## 27 JOHN MORRISON (6', 219, 7, 46)

Chiseled WWE aerialist had a career year on the Smackdown brand before being drafted to Raw in the spring … Put forth an inspirational effort in his first world title match ever in July of last year on an episode of *Smackdown*, but was defeated by champion Jeff Hardy … Beat Rey Mysterio Jr. in September to win the Intercontinental championship—his first in three years … Won televised title defenses against Dolph Ziggler and Eric Escobar before losing the championship to Drew McIntyre in December … Competed in a six-man Smackdown brand World title Elimination Chamber match in February … Formed a tag team with R-Truth that unsuccessfully challenged for the Unified tag team championship against The Big Show and The Miz at WrestleMania 26 … A five-time tag team champion with two different partners … Trained gymnast is by far the most successful winner of WWE's defunct reality show *Tough Enough* … Starship Pain split-legged corkscrew is an effective, though inefficient, finisher.

## 28 DESMOND WOLFE (6'1", 220, 10, 6)

British bad boy takes a bit of a tumble on this list after ranking in the top 10 for two straight years during a dominant run in Ring of Honor… The former "Nigel McGuinness" finished off his ROH career in October with a final match in New York against career rival Bryan Danielson, who was also leaving the company … When a tentative deal with WWE fell through, TNA quickly swooped in and signed the former ROH heavyweight champion, and gave him his new name … Made quite an impression in his first night in the company by beating down Kurt Angle at the end of an Impact … Had two tremendous PPV matches against Angle at Turning Point and Final Resolution … Seemed to have lost his way a bit after Eric Bischoff and Hulk Hogan came into power in TNA early in the year … When TNA opened up its contender rankings to fans' votes, Wolfe earned the most votes by far … That led to a world title match against Rob Van Dam that Wolfe lost in about three minutes.

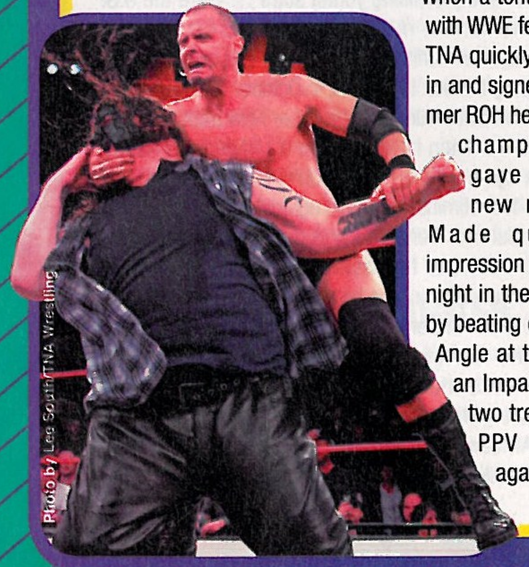


Photo by Les Spurlin/TNA Wrestling

## 29 ULTIMO GUERRERO (6', 200, 12, 10)

The last warrior of his kind remains dangerous to anybody in CMLL … Abandoned the Laguneros stable to become a heel again … Started a feud with Hector Garza over the CMLL heavyweight title, successfully defending the belt in three matches … Also defended the title against Emerged … Became the first CMLL Universal champion by defeating Texano Jr. in the finals of a tournament that included every champion in the promotion … Continued competing with Rey Bucanero and Atlantis as part of the Guerreros de la Atlantida stable … Challenged Volador and La Sombra for the tag title with Atlantis, but came up short … Feuding with recent arrival Strongman … Also feuded with Shocker, Mistico, and Volador Jr. in numerous six-man tag matches … Successfully defended his title against Jushin Liger at Arena Mexico … Formed a brief alliance with Giant Bernard … Finishes his matches with his lethal moonsault slam.

## 30 DREW McINTYRE (6'5", 250, 9, 125)

Entitled Scotsman has been bullying his way up the WWE ladder since debuting in Smackdown last August … Boasts of being handpicked by WWE Chairman Vince McMahon to become a future world champion … Has used McMahon's endorsement to leverage several opportunities from Smackdown GM Theodore Long … Got the better of R-Truth and Finlay in separate feuds late last year … Impressive win streak earned him an Intercontinental title match against John Morrison at December's TLC pay-per-view … Won the title and defended it successfully for five months … After he attacked Matt Hardy during a backstage interview, Long fired McIntyre and vacated the title … A week later, McMahon forced Long to reinstate McIntyre and return the title to him … Lost the title soon afterward to Kofi Kingston … Had a brief televised stint in WWE in 2007 before returning to Florida Championship Wrestling for more seasoning … Brooding entrance music and video is quite unique … Has a great look that could take him far in the sport.





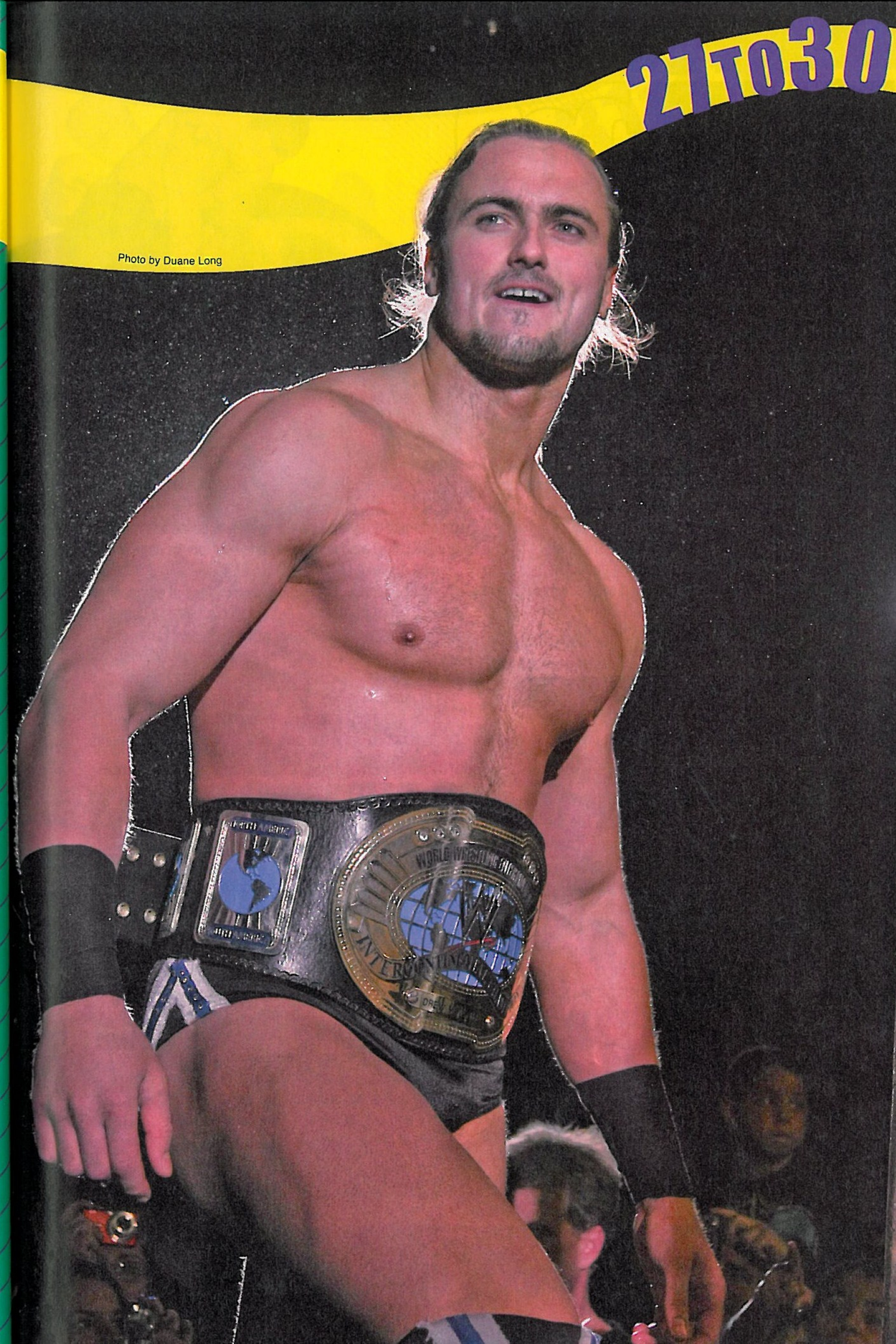


Photo by Duane Long

# PWI 500


Photo by George Napolitano

**31 SAMOA JOE** (6'2", 280, 11, 29) After a frustrating year in TNA that saw him miscast as a face-painted, knife-wielding psychopath, "The Samoan Submission Machine" seems to have returned to his roots as a no-nonsense butt-kicker … Early in the grading period was part of the now-defunct Main Event Mafia, and recruited Taz as his special adviser … Won his fourth X division title in August of last year by defeating Homicide and kept the championship for about six weeks … Took part in a terrific three-way TNA World title match that included champion AJ Styles and Christopher Daniels, but lost … Won a guaranteed World title shot in the Feast or Fired match, and used it to challenge Styles in the main event of February's Against All Odds … Lost that match as well … Spent more than a month off of TNA television after being abducted by a gang of masked men in March … Returned without explanation in April, and proceeded to randomly attack other wrestlers for weeks … Former ROH and TNA heavyweight champion delivers his offense with tremendous impact.

**32 DAVEY RICHARDS** (5'8", 205, 6, 77) One-time Washington state farm boy has developed into one of the hottest sensations on the independent wrestling scene … Wore the ROH tag team championship with American Wolves partner Eddie Edwards for 253 days last year … Along the way beat teams including Bryan Danielson and Tyler Black, The Young Bucks, and Kevin Steen and El Generico … Made it to the finals of a tournament to crown the first ROH TV championship, but lost to Edwards … Lost a match against ROH heavyweight champion Austin Aries by referee stoppage in November … Compact and explosive ring technician is likened by many to Chris Benoit and the Dynamite Kid … Despite his natural acclamation to the sport, has said he does not intend to remain in it much longer, and is already training for a future career as a firefighter … Currently the reigning Pro Wrestling Guerilla heavyweight champion.

**33 MR. ANDERSON** (6'2", 243, 11, NL) Boisterous Green Bay native arrived in TNA in January, determined to prove WWE made a mistake by cutting him … Debuted as the surprise opponent for Abyss at Genesis and won the match after clocking Abyss with brass knuckles … Became involved in a particularly intense feud with Kurt Angle in which Anderson antagonized the Olympic gold medalist by disrespecting American troops … Their grudge culminated in a bloody and spectacular cage match won by Angle at Lockdown … After losing a match to Jeff Hardy at Sacrifice, appeared to show signs of a change of heart … Turn from villain to fan favorite became complete the following week on *Impact* when he helped Hardy defeat Sting … Kept busy in between his stints in WWE and TNA by wrestling on independent shows, including Hulk Hogan's tour of Australia in November … Reputation as a big-mouth extends beyond the ring, as Anderson has found himself in political hot water in the past over controversial comments … Calls his reverse STO finisher The Mic Check.

**34 TED DiBIASE JR.** (6'4", 235, 4, 44) Third-generation Raw competitor is on the short list of future WWE main-event stars … Spent much of his first two years in WWE teaming with Cody Rhodes in a stable of wrestlers led by Randy Orton called Legacy … He and Rhodes inherited Orton's bitter rivalry with Triple-H, leading to the duo feuding with a reunited D-X during the second half of 2009 … He and Rhodes scored a big win over D-X in a submissions-count-anywhere match at Breaking Point, but lost a Hell in a Cell match against Triple-H and Shawn Michaels the following month … Infighting eventually caused the Legacy stable to dissolve and resulted in a triple-threat match involving DiBiase, Rhodes, and Orton at WrestleMania … Was pinned by Orton in that match … Inspired by his Hall-of-Famer dad, began flaunting his wealth in April and calling himself "The Fortunate Son" … Lost to R-Truth in his first pay-per-view singles match at Over the Limit … Gifted 27-year-old may have the tools to someday surpass his Hall of Fame father.

## 31 TO 38


Photo by George Napolitano

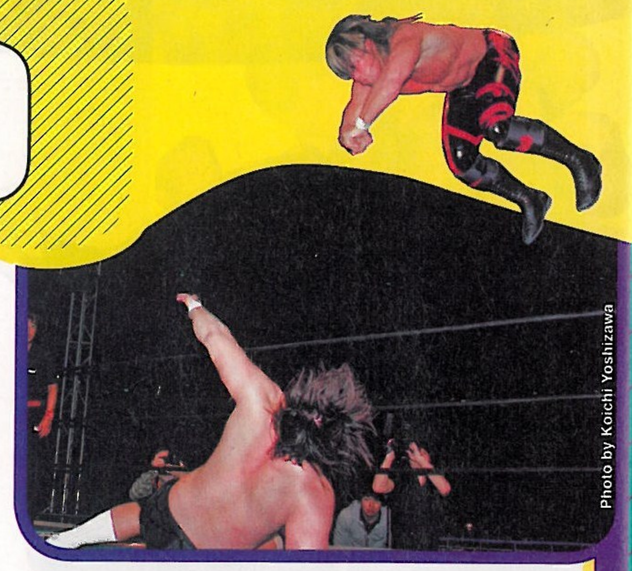
**35 HIROOKI GOTO** (6', 227, 7, 82) A year of ups and downs for one of New Japan's fastest rising stars … Disbanded the RISE faction after Shinsuke Nakamura's turn to the dark side and Milano Collection A.T.'s retirement … Has become friends with former enemy Hiroshi Tanahashi, helping Tanahashi lead New Japan's home team against enemy forces … Embroiled in a physical feud with ZERO-1's Masato Tanaka in a rivalry that begun last November and refuses to end … Continued his tournament success of recent years by winning the 2010 New Japan Cup, pinning Togi Makabe in the final … Was unable to capitalize on that victory, failing to defeat former friend Nakamura in a gripping IWGP heavyweight title match that won great acclaim in Japan … Continues to finish matches with the Shouten, a powerful vertical suplex side slam … Still only 31, he is destined for greater success in New Japan but must continue to develop his skills to catch the top two of Tanahashi and Nakamura.

**36 D'ANGELO DINERO** (6', 220, 7, NL) Fast-talking hustler has shown breakout-star potential since joining TNA last August … Soon after his arrival wrestled in a series of matches against Suicide, including a victory in a falls-count-anywhere match at No Surrender … Picked up a quick upset win against Desmond Wolfe at the special three-hour live *Impact* on January 4 … Lost a rematch at Genesis … Scored another major victory when he defeated TNA World champion AJ Styles in a non-title match on February 4 … Biggest night of his seven-year career came on February 14, when he defeated Wolfe, Matt Morgan, and Mr. Anderson in the same night to win the Eight-Card Stud tournament at Against All Odds … Dinero's in-ring celebration closed the show … Victory earned him a title shot against Styles in a steel cage match at Lockdown, but he lost the bout after Styles jabbed him in the eye with a pen … Recently sidelined with a shoulder injury … Previously competed in WWE as Elijah Burke.

**37 EDDIE EDWARDS** (6', 190, 8, 92) Ring of Honor's inaugural television champion remains one of the most underrated competitors on the independent scene … Dominated ROH's tag team division for much of 2009 with American Wolves partner Davey Richards … The team wore the ROH tag title for nearly nine months … One night after suffering a broken elbow in a match against Kevin Steen, teamed with Richards to compete in—and win—a brutal ladder match against Steen and El Generico on September 26 in New York City … Defeated Steen and Colt Cabana to get to the finals of a tournament to crown the first ROH TV champion … Beat his own partner, Richards, by submission in a spectacular 20-minute final for the title … Richards congratulated him after the match … Lost to Christopher Daniels in May in Daniels' ROH return match… Recently survived a brutal match with ROH newcomer Rasche Brown … Boston native was trained by the great Killer Kowalski.

**38 MATT MORGAN** (7', 305, 8, 86) Legit seven-footer has grown exponentially as a wrestler and a showman over the past year … Spent several months last year petitioning to be part of the Main Event Mafia, only to be strung along by Kurt Angle … Competed for the TNA World title in a three-way match at Hard Justice that included Sting and Angle, but was pinned after Angle clobbered him with a chair … That led to a one-on-one match between Angle and Morgan at Bound for Glory … Morgan lost but had the best match of his career in the process … Was the sole survivor of an eight-man tag team elimination match at Final Resolution … Formed a partnership with fellow heavyweight Hernandez that beat The British Invasion to capture the TNA tag team championship at Genesis … After retaining the championship against Beer Money at Destination X, Morgan attacked Hernandez … Declared himself the sole tag team champion and began referring to himself in the plural form … Tough Enough alum moves well for his size.

# PWI 500


Photo by Koichi Yoshizawa

## 39 HIROSHI TANAHASHI

(5'11", 223, 11, 7) The most popular new generation star in Japanese wrestling, Tanahashi enjoyed another fruitful year in New Japan … Despite having to vacate the IWGP heavyweight title after his greatest rival, Shinsuke Nakamura, injured him last August, he was voted MVP of the Japanese pro wrestling industry in 2009 … Has yet to challenge for the title in 2010, but pinned the young ace of Pro Wrestling NOAH, Go Shiozaki, at the Tokyo Dome in January … Currently feuding with CHAOS' Toru Yano, a hair-vs.-hair match was scheduled for the near future as of press time … The lengthy feud with Yano has meant a lower profile for Tanahashi this year, after he defeated Keiji Muto, Kurt Angle, and Nakamura in the early part of 2009 … Has been carrying an injury for much of the year, leaving him slightly vulnerable and resulting in a couple of upset defeats … Still regarded as the ace and leader of New Japan despite his lack of gold in 2010 … Preferred finisher remains the High Fly Flow, an Eddie Guerrero-style frog splash.

## 40 YOSHIHIRO TAKAYAMA

(6'5", 275, 18, 60) The most imposing Japanese big man has continued his return to prominence as a singles star … Finally lost All Japan's Triple Crown to Satoshi Kojima last September after holding the title for half a year … Engaged in a high-profile war against Naoya Ogawa for Antonio Inoki's IGF promotion in November … Returned to New Japan for a special appearance in January, headlining the Tokyo Dome show and falling just short of capturing the IWGP heavyweight title from Shinsuke Nakamura … Appearing less in All Japan this year to help out his old haunt, the struggling Pro Wrestling NOAH promotion, where as of press time he is scheduled to challenge Takashi Sugiura for the GHC heavyweight title … Earned the shot by winning NOAH's inaugral Global League Tournament, pinning Jun Akiyama in the final at Tokyo Nippon Budokan in May … His Everest German suplex remains one of the most impressive in the pro wrestling world.

## 41 CODY RHODES

(6'1", 219, 4, 48) Talented second-generation competitor kept a high profile in WWE over much of the past year … With tag team partner Ted DiBiase Jr. was involved in a main-event feud with D-Generation X that spanned over three pay-per-views … The feud culminated in a Hell in a Cell bout that his team lost after Triple-H clobbered him in the skull with a sledge hammer … Legacy—the three-man stable that included Rhodes, DiBiase, and Randy Orton—began to show signs of falling apart early in the year, including when Rhodes inadvertently got Orton disqualified in a WWE World title match against Sheamus at the Royal Rumble … Shift to Smackdown in the annual WWE draft was widely considered a promising move for Rhodes, who has a better chance of making a name for himself away from his former Legacy partners … Picked up singles victories against Orton, Mark Henry, and John Morrison over the past year … Youngest son of "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes has his father's gift of gab, but doesn't get to show it too often.

## 42 MISTICO

(5'7", 170, 12, 36) Started a heated feud with Negro Casas that culminated in a mask-vs.-hair match at the CMLL Anniversary show, where Mistico shaved the head of Casas … Traveled to Japan and won the IWGP junior heavyweight title from Tiger Mask IV … Successfully defended the title against Negro Casas and Jushin Liger during his three-month reign … Lost the championship back to Tiger Mask IV … Formed a team with Volador Jr. and La Sombra to main-event several shows … Participated in CMLL's *Parejas Increibles* tournament, which requires a rudo and a technico to form a tag team … His partner, Averno, influenced Mistico into turning rudo for the first time … Has inexplicably assaulted Volador on many occasions … Claims he only wrestles as a rudo against Volador, and even changed the design of his mask to reflect his hatred toward his former ally … Refused to hand over the Mexican light heavyweight title belt after Volador defeated him for it … Makes opponents submit to



Photo by Wayne McCarty

# PWI 500

## 43 JAMES STORM (6', 230, 9, 59)

Tennessee cowboy loves his beer—both as a beverage and, when necessary, as a weapon … With partner Robert Roode makes up Beer Money Inc.—three-time holders of TNA's tag team championship and *PWI*'s 2008 Tag Team of the Year … Entered the grading period as tag team champions before losing the title to Booker T & Scott Steiner at Victory Road … Came up short in several challenges over the year for both the TNA and IWGP tag championships … Took part in the third annual Feast or Fired match at Final Resolution … Defeated Kevin Nash and Sean Waltman at Genesis … In one of the more horrifying moments in recent memory, Storm spit a large fire ball into the face of Jeff Hardy on the April 12 episode of *Impact* … The two were on opposing teams in the Lethal Lockdown match a few days later at Lockdown … One of TNA's most tenured performers, having competed on the company's very first card in June of 2002.

## 44 DANIEL BRYAN (5'8", 185, 9, 27)

The jury is still out on whether WWE is a good fit for the man once known by fans ás "the best in the world"… Former Bryan Danielson left his long-time home of Ring of Honor in October after wrestling in a series of matches dubbed The Final Countdown Tour … Very last ROH match saw him defeat rival Nigel McGuinness in New York City … Joined WWE's developmental system soon afterward and got his new name … After defeating Chavo Guerrero Jr. in a *Raw* dark match in January, voluntarily returned to Florida Championship Wrestling for more seasoning … Made his TV debut in March as a "rookie" in the first season of *NXT* … Immediately butted heads with his mentor, The Miz, who many fans thought could learn more from Bryan than Bryan could from him … Lost most of his matches on *NXT*, but remained high in the "pros' poll"… After being eliminated from the show, developed a heated rivalry with announcer Michael Cole … Held his own in a TV match against Chris Jericho, but was soundly trounced by Batista.



Photo by George Napolitano

## 45 DOUG WILLIAMS (6', 235, 17, 134)

The obnoxious English veteran has become a force in TNA's X division, where he is a two-time champion … With Brutus Magnus wore both the TNA and IWGP tag team championships for three months in 2009 … Used the X division title shot that his British Invasion teammate Rob Terry won in the Feast or Fired match to challenge Amazing Red to a championship match on *Impact* … Quickly defeated Red, who had competed in the previous bout … Successfully defended the X title in a three-way match against Kazarian and Daniels on the March 8 *Impact*, and against Shannon Moore at Destination X … In a puzzling move, TNA management stripped Williams of the title when flight restrictions from Europe prevented him from defending the strap at Lockdown … Regained the title from Kazarian at Sacrifice … Mat technician scoffs at the high-flying style usually employed by cruiserweights … Insists on being introduced as "Douglas" Williams … Former Ring of Honor Pure wrestling champion may have more charisma than anyone in the X division.

## 46 RODERICK STRONG (5'10", 212, 9, 61)

Master of the backbreaker became a major threat to the ROH heavyweight champion Tyler Black earlier this year … After a quiet first half of 2009, picked up some impressive victories in ROH against the likes of Nigel McGuinness, Bryan Danielson, and Black … Seconded Black as his personal judge when Black challenged Austin Aries for the ROH title in February … As a condition of helping Black win the title was guaranteed a championship match … Became enraged when ROH Executive Producer Jim Cornette made the match a three-way that also included Austin Aries … Was eliminated by Black in the match, which took place on ROH's April Big Bang Internet pay-per-view from Charlotte, North Carolina … Finally got a one-on-one title shot against Black in May in New York City, and lost … Innovative offense combines torturous submission holds, like the Boston crab, with high-impact moves, like his Death by Roderick fireman's carry into a double-knee gutbuster.

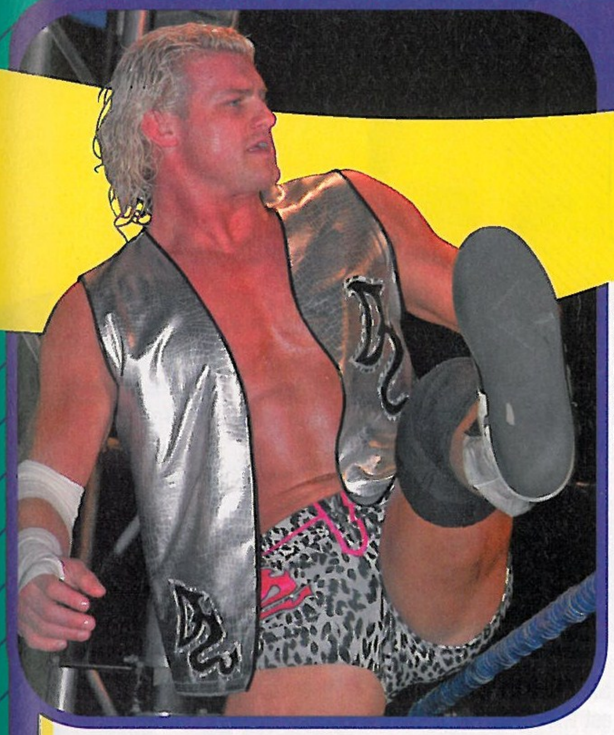


Photo by Duane Long

## 47 CHRISTOPHER DANIELS (6', 224, 17, 58)

Past 12 months saw career highs and lows for the "Fallen Angel" … Won a Steel Asylum match at Hard Justice 2009 to become number-one contender to Samoa Joe's X division championship … Lost the title match to Joe at No Surrender … Competed in a six-man Ultimate X match for the X division championship at Bound For Glory, and took a frightening fall off the cables onto his head … Took aim at his former tag team partner, and then-TNA World champion, AJ Styles, late in the year … Competed in one of TNA's best bouts of the year at Turning Point—a three-way World title match that included Styles and Joe … Got another World title shot the following month at Final Resolution, but lost that match to Styles … Profile decreased considerably after the arrival of new TNA power brokers Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff in January … Was released by TNA in March and made his surprise return to ROH a few days later … Has targeted Davey Richards and Tyler Black … Agile competitor delivers a picture-perfect moonsault.

## 48 MESIAS (6', 248, 13, 39)

Considered one of the top draws of AAA, and a huge fan favorite among women … Dropped the AAA title to Dr. Wagner Jr. in a very taxing match … Unsuccessfully pursued Wagner in hardcore and cage matches … During his feud with Wagner, Mesias also battled Cibernetico, who inserted himself in the title picture … Helped AAA owner Joaquin Roldan battle the resurrected Foreign Legion, facing off against Konnan, Zorro, and Chessman … Finally recovered the AAA title from Dr. Wagner Jr. in an anything-goes domed-cage match by delivering the outlawed Martinete piledriver … Lost the belt a month later to Electroshock in a three-way elimination match that also involved Ken Anderson … Briefly tagged with Jack Evans … Occasionally revisited his alliance with Cibernetico to battle the Foreign Legion and Wagnermaniacs … Occasionally wrestles in Puerto Rico … Typically pins opponents after executing a leaping reverse STO.

## 49 ERIC YOUNG (6', 225, 10, 72)

Long-time comedic competitor has shown his serious side in TNA over the past year … Became the leader of the World Elite in July 2009 and later formed a powerful alliance with Kurt Angle's Main Event Mafia … Pinned Kevin Nash in a three-way match that also included Hernandez at Bound for Glory to win the TNA Legends title, which he renamed the Global championship … Held the title for three months … After the World Elite dissolved, aided Nash as he bickered with long-time friends Scott Hall and Sean Waltman … Teamed with Nash to take on Hall and Waltman at Destination X, but Nash turned on him … Beat Nash in a Lockdown cage match … Finally took up Nash on his offer to join The Band, replacing the outgoing Waltman … After Hall and Nash won the tag team championship, The Band invoked the "Freebird Rule," which allows Young to defend the title as one-third of the team.

## 50 DOLPH ZIGGLER (6', 221, 6, 113)

Brash blond has had some high peaks and low valleys in his WWE career during the grading period … Was on a big roll last summer, which saw him compete against Rey Mysterio Jr. for the Intercontinental championship at Night of Champions and again at SummerSlam … Was defeated in both matches … At September's Breaking Point pay-per-view from Montreal interrupted an in-ring speech by local legend Pat Patterson, and was chased out of the ring by John Morrison … Lost other Intercontinental title challenges against Morrison at Hell in a Cell and in subsequent rematches … Drew the unlucky number-one slot in the 2010 Royal Rumble match and was eliminated by C.M. Punk … Beat Morrison and R-Truth in a triple-threat match to qualify for the Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 26 … Developed an effective sleeperhold that he used successfully to take out many opponents … Had a brief rivalry with Hornswoggle … Accomplished high school and collegiate wrestler once held the WWE tag team title as a member of The Spirit Squad.

# PWI 500

## 51 ROBERT ROODE (6', 230, 12, 55)

TNA tag team specialist held the company's tag championship, as well as the IWGP belts, early in the grading period with partner James Storm … Spent several months in 2009 involved in a four-way tag team feud that included Team 3-D, The British Invasion, and Booker T and Scott Steiner … Issues resulted in a Full Metal Mayhem four-team match in which Beer Money lost … Challenged The British Invasion for the TNA tag team championship in a steel cage match in October, but lost … After Eric Bischoff came to power in TNA, Roode and Storm offered their services to him as henchmen … Was part of Team Flair, which lost to Team Hogan in a Lethal Lockdown match at the Lockdown pay-per-view … Has held the tag team championship in TNA on five occasions with two different partners … D.W.I. combination power bomb/neckbreaker finisher is one of the most devastating tag team maneuvers in the sport … Was trained by fellow Ontarians Sean Morley and Shane Sewell.

## 52 NAOMICHI MARUFUJI (5'9", 200, 12, 91)

The 30-year-old vice president of Pro Wrestling NOAH has had a huge year after returning to his junior heavyweight roots … Entered New Japan in December to compete in the legendary Super J Cup tournament, beating Jushin "Thunder" Liger, Tiger Mask IV, Ryusuke Taguchi, and Prince Devitt in the final to win the tournament for the second time in his career … Defeated Tiger Mask IV to capture New Japan's top junior prize, the IWGP junior heavyweight title, at the Tokyo Dome in January … Has proven to be unstoppable against New Japan juniors since … Currently scheduled to defend his title against the winner of the 2010 Best of the Super Junior tournament … His performances in Japan's biggest wrestling company have finally established him as Japan's top sub-heavyweight superstar … Can finish bouts with a variety of moves, including the Tiger Frosion, a Tiger Driver turned into Emerald Frosion, a combination of moves innovated by his late mentor, Mitsuharu Misawa.

## 53 KEVIN NASH (7', 317, 19, 105)

Six-time world champion remains in remarkable physical condition at the age of 51 … Defeated AJ Styles early in the grading period to capture the TNA Legends championship … Feuded with fellow legend, Mick Foley, leading up to a bloody battle at Hard Justice in which Nash retained the title … Lost the title to Eric Young at Bound for Glory … Buddied-up to former New World Order teammate Hulk Hogan upon "The Hulkster's" arrival in TNA in January … Reunited with his long-time friend and tag team partner Scott Hall … Although it briefly appeared that Nash did not see eye-to-eye with Hall or Sean Waltman, it turned out he was working with them all along in trying to secure their jobs in TNA … Cashed in a tag team title shot he earned at Final Resolution's Feast or Fired match and, with Hall, beat Matt Morgan to become the new tag team champs … High-mileage veteran is among the smartest wrestling minds in TNA, and is a valuable locker room presence.

## 54 KEVIN STEEN (5'10", 238, 11, 112)

Rugged Canadian is an impact player in both ROH's heavyweight and tag team divisions … With long-time partner El Generico, was involved in a heated grudge with ROH tag team champions The American Wolves last summer … The rivalry culminated in a jaw-dropping ladder war last September in New York City that was won by the Wolves … After he and Generico lost a match against the Young Bucks at Final Battle, Steen gave a drawn-out speech that suggested he was retiring … Instead, he turned on Generico and beat him mercilessly … The betrayal resulted in one of the most personal rivalries in ROH this year … Has aligned himself with former heavyweight champion Steve Corino to take on Generico, who has partnered with Colt Cabana … Beat Cabana in a brutal death match in New York City in May … Also a frequent competitor in Pro Wrestling Guerilla … Was trained by former WWE tag team champions Jacques Rougeau and Pierre Ouellet … High-impact technician calls himself "Mr. Wrestling."

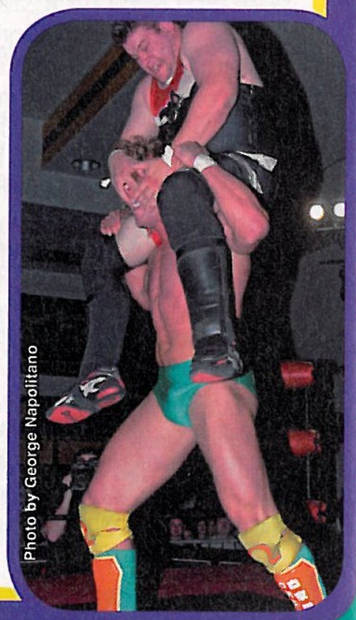


Photo by George Napolitano





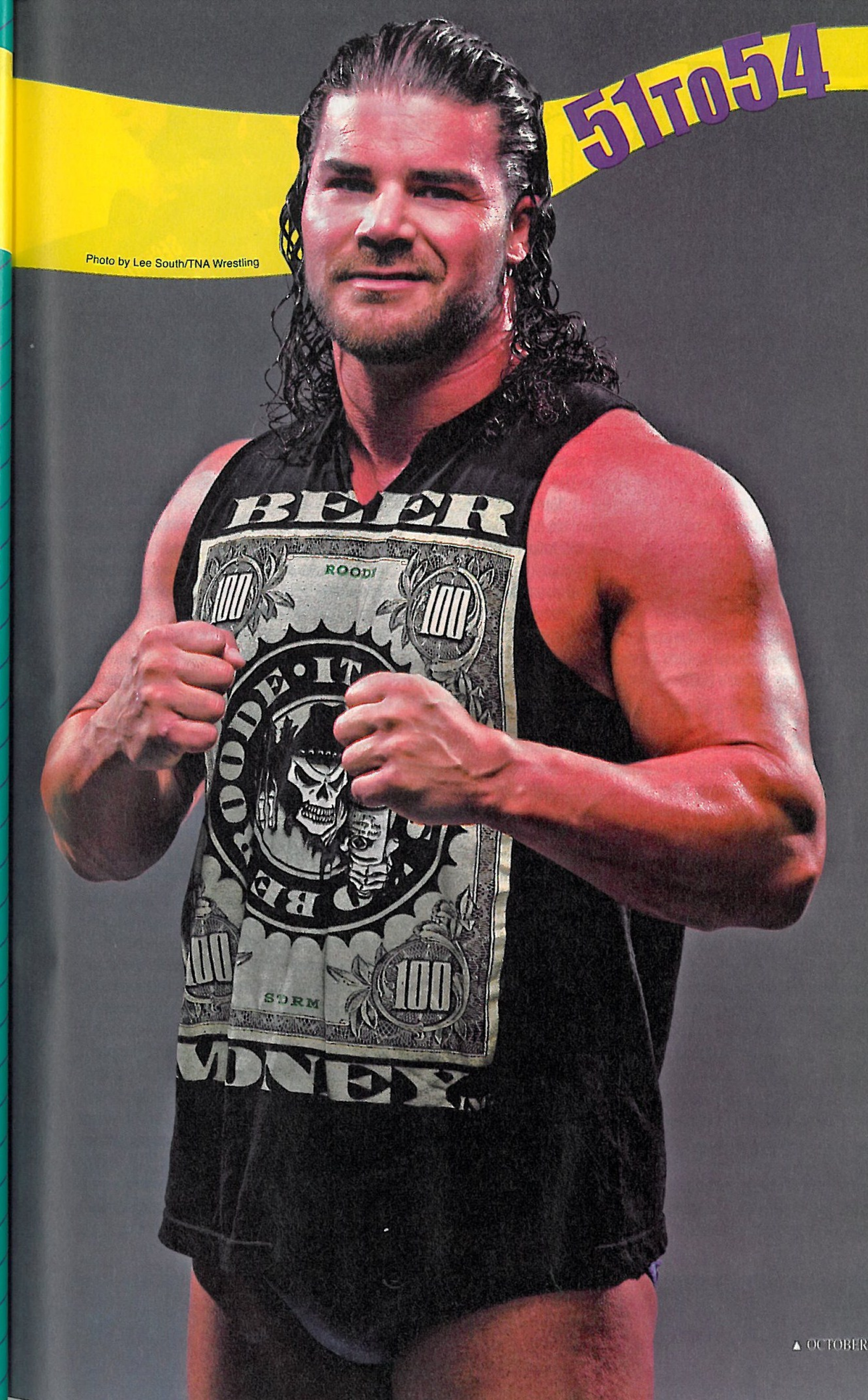



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

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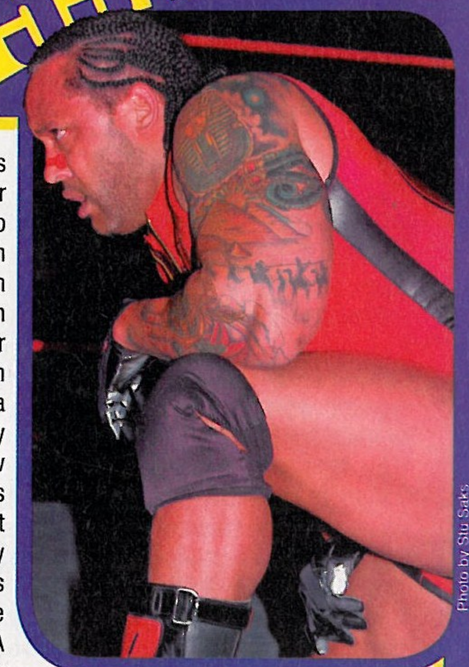
**55 R-TRUTH** (6'1", 228, 13, 80) High-energy native of Charlotte, North Carolina, has probably exceeded most expectations for his WWE return so far … Lost to Drew McIntyre at October's Hell in a Cell pay-per-view … Was part of the victorious Team Smackdown in a seven-on-seven match against Team Raw at Bragging Rights … Picked up impressive singles victories during the grading period against former World champions C.M. Punk and Chris Jericho … Teamed with John Morrison to challenge for the tag team championship against The Miz and The Big Show at WrestleMania 26, but lost … Took none too kindly to Ted DiBiase Jr.'s offer to make him his "Virgil," and defeated DiBiase at Over the Limit … The following night, scored an upset win against The Miz to capture the vacant U.S. championship … Has been part of some odd comedy segments, including one in which he portrayed the controversial "Pretty Ricky" character, and another in which MacGruber blew him up … Gets fans on their feet with a simple question: "What's Up?"

**56 JEFF JARRETT** (6', 230, 24, 21) Founding father of TNA has had a rocky year both professionally and personally … Was banished from TNA last summer after reports surfaced that he was romantically involved with Kurt Angle's estranged wife, Karen … Concerned over the pending arrival of Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff, Mick Foley sought out Jarrett and implored him to return to the company to help him restore order … On the January 4 special edition of *Impact*, confronted Hogan, who told Jarrett that he would have to fight to earn his job back … After some resistance, eventually agreed to start out at the bottom of the TNA ladder … After nailing Bischoff with a guitar, was forced to wrestle Foley in a match in which the loser would be fired … Won that match, and reluctantly cost Foley his job … Teamed with Abyss, Rob Van Dam, and Jeff Hardy to defeat Team Flair in a Lethal Lockdown match in April … For all his flaws, offered a sense of leadership during his years running TNA that may be missing today.

**57 ELECTROSHOCK** (6'2", 209, 18, 254) The luchador with "100,000 watts of violence" has taken his game to a whole new level over the past year … After winning the Rey de Reyes tournament, he started to compete in more high-profile matches … Tried to compete for the AAA title, but was defeated in a number-one contender's match by Dr. Wagner Jr. … After the Foreign Legion disbanded, he was recruited by Wagner to join the new Wagnermaniacs stable, a group that simply took whatever they wanted … As a part of the faction, he teamed frequently with Silver King and Ultimo Gladiador … Aided Wagner in some of his title matches … Had a brief feud with Pimpinela … After Wagner lost the title, he placed himself into an AAA title match involving champion Mesias and Ken Anderson … Won the title by making Anderson submit … As champion, he took over the Wagnermaniacs team, and kicked Wagner out, claiming the group was now free from taking orders.

**58 TYSON KIDD** (5'9", 195, 15, 73) Compact half of the WWE Unified tag team champions is quite exciting in the ring … Along with partner David Hart Smith and romantic interest Natalya, comprises The Hart Dynasty on WWE's Smackdown brand … Lost a thrilling one-on-one match against Rey Mysterio Jr. in the main event of a March edition of *WWE Superstars* … Delivered a "Hart Attack" clothesline outside of the ring to WWE Chairman Vince McMahon at WrestleMania 26 —and won over fans in the process … With his mentor, Bret "Hitman" Hart in his corner, teamed with Smith to defeat The Miz and The Big Show in May and capture the Unified tag team title … Execution of moves is fast, especially his springboard elbowdrop … Though not related by blood, considered an honorary member of the legendary Hart family … A young Kidd can be seen taking part in the Hart family's in-ring celebration after the Hart Foundation won the main event of the 1997 In Your House: Canadian Stampede event.




Photo by Stu Saks

**59 MONTEL VONTAVIUS PORTER** (6'3", 249, 7, 33) WWE's resident "baller" had a less-than-spectacular year on the Raw brand, and is looking for a resurgence on Smackdown … Once a flashy braggart, MVP has chosen instead to inspire fans through his story of redemption, having spent more than nine years in prison when he was younger … Jack Swagger belittled MVP because of his checkered past, resulting in a feud … Beat Swagger in a grudge match at SummerSlam … Formed a moderately successful tag team with Mark Henry that challenged for the WWE Unified tag team championship against Chris Jericho and The Big Show at Breaking Point … Teamed with a returning Trish Stratus to defeat Chris Jericho and Beth Phoenix in September … Feuded with The Miz over the U.S. title early in 2010, and lost a match to him at The Royal Rumble … Came up short in his third consecutive Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 26 … Picked up important wins during the grading period against Chris Jericho and Ted DiBiase Jr.

**60 STING** (6'2", 250, 25, 9) Icon of the sport underwent a surprising attitude change after being in the sport for 25 years … Lost a three-way World title match at Hard Justice that included champion Kurt Angle and Matt Morgan … Challenged again for the World title the following month in a five-way match at No Surrender … In the end, elected to let Styles get the winning pinfall over Angle rather than go for it himself … The gesture earned Sting a World title match at Bound for Glory—his fourth in a row at the event … After losing the bout to Styles, gave an emotional speech in which he suggested his career might be over … On the March 8 *Impact*, shocked the wrestling world by returning to the ring and attacking Hulk Hogan and Abyss with his baseball bat … Lost in short order to a debuting Rob Van Dam later that night … Was ranked number-one in the TNA Championship Committee's first top-10 list, thus earning a title shot against RVD at Slammiversary.

**61 ADAM PEARCE** (6'2", 248, 14, 51) Practitioner of "old school" pulls double-duty as reigning NWA heavyweight champion and Ring of Honor's head booker … Lost to NWA North American champion Phil Shatter in the main event of a February NWA New Beginnings card … It took nearly 18 months after Pearce lost the NWA title to Blue Demon Jr. before he was granted a rematch … His title shot came on March 14 in Charlotte, North Carolina, as part of a three-way that included Shatter … "Scrap Iron" pinned both men to capture the NWA title for the third time … Rarely competes in ROH these days, but has helped craft several compelling storylines in the nation's third-largest promotion.

**62 JAY BRISCOE** (6', 205, 10, 81) Elder half of Ring of Honor's most seasoned and respected tag team, The Briscoe Brothers, along with his sibling, Mark … After going at it alone in the first half of 2009, reunited with his brother early in the grading period and set forth on winning their sixth ROH tag team championship … The Briscoes earned victories over The Super Smash Brothers, The Young Bucks, and Kevin Steen and El Generico … Long-awaited showdown with ROH tag team champions The American Wolves came at December's Final Battle event … The Briscoes won, but the celebration was short-lived, as the reunited Kings of Wrestling—Claudio Castagnoli and Chris Hero—attacked the new champions afterward … Dropped the titles to The Kings at April's Big Bang event … The Briscoes reportedly auditioned for a possible job in WWE late in the year, but nothing has come of it as of press time … Has shown the makings of a top-tier singles competitor, but would likely never voluntarily split with his brother … Jay Driller double-underhook piledriver is devastating.

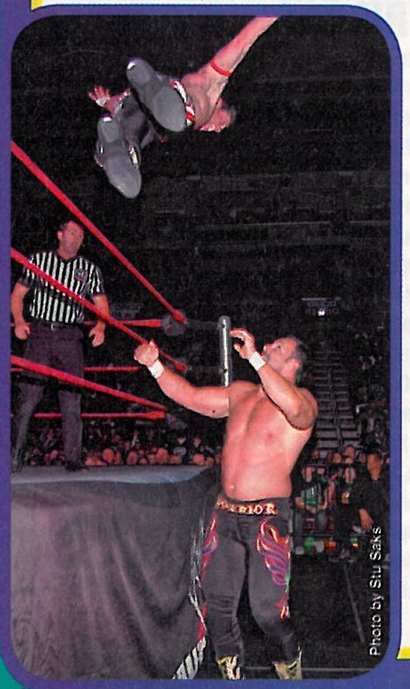
# PWI 500

## 63 EVAN BOURNE (5'9", 183, 9, 63)

Jubilant Raw brand competitor is WWE's best high-flyer … Came to Raw from ECW in the 2009 WWE draft and quickly picked up a big victory against then-U.S. champ Kofi Kingston in a non-title match … Compact size has put him at a disadvantage against most opponents, and resulted in Bourne losing more matches than he won in 2009 … Drew the unenviable slot of number-two in the 2010 Royal Rumble match and was eliminated by C.M. Punk … Defeated William Regal to qualify for the Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 26 … The match was the perfect showcase for Bourne's spectacular offense … Was revealed by John Cena as his mystery tag team partner in a match against Edge and Sheamus in the main event of the May 31 *Raw* … Used his Air Bourne shooting star press to score the pin on Edge, who had attacked Bourne earlier in the night … Cena later endorsed Bourne on his Twitter account, saying, "Evan is for real."

## 64 MINORU SUZUKI (5'10", 225, 22, 111)

The former shoot fighter who returned to his pro wrestling roots in 2003 continues to star as a freelancer in Japan … Has spent much of 2010 in All Japan feuding with former Pancrase co-founder Masakatsu Funaki, who, like Suzuki, has returned to pro wrestling … Was beaten in a cage match by Funaki in March but came back to his second Champion Carnival tournament in a row, defeating who else but Funaki in the final … Went on to defeat ex-sumo star Ryota Hama in May to capture the Triple Crown, lifting the 450-pounder and dropping him with a piledriver for the win … Ended his grudge with Funaki to form a faction of veterans also featuring sumo great Akebono and long-time friend Taiyo Kea … Remains a master of the sleeperhold, with very few having ever escaped his perfected version of the move.


Photo by Stu Saks

## 65 BLUE DEMON JR. (5'8", 228, 25, 22)

Dominant NWA heavyweight title run was finally ended in March after 505 days when he lost to Adam Pearce in a three-way that included Phil Shattter … Was having an excellent year to that point, defending against Oliver John, Super Crazy, and Sicodelico Jr. … Competed within Mexico on the independent circuit … Wrestled as a heel most of the time, taking on L.A. Park and Marco Corleone … Also worked several shows for the Perros del Mal promotion, where he would team with leader Perro Aguayo Jr. … Frequently battled Hijo del Santo, which always heats up talk of a possible mask-vs.-mask match to end the feud their fathers started … Competed at the Viva La Lucha pay-per-view in a dark match where he teamed with Perro and Hijo de Lizmark … Uses the Butterfly Backbreaker (Canadian backbreaker drop) as his finishing maneuver.

## 66 MATT HARDY (6'2", 246, 16, 20)

Elder half of the legendary Hardy Boys has struggled since the WWE departure of his younger sibling, Jeff, last August … The once-fit Cameron, North Carolina, native has really let himself go as of late … Previously attributed his weight gain to an abdominal disorder, but continued to pack on the pounds after undergoing surgery to address the problem …The extra weight Hardy is carrying has affected his wrestling considerably … Following a bitter feud between the Hardys, Matt reconciled with Jeff last summer … Career hit a low point when he teamed with The Great Khali for a stretch early in the year … Mentored WWE rookie Justin Gabriel in the first season of *NXT* … Competed in his third Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 26 … Got back into the thick of things in April when he became embroiled in a rivalry with Intercontinental champion Drew McIntyre, who attacked Hardy without provocation several times … Hardy returned the favor when he ambushed McIntyre at Over the Limit … WWE Chairman Vince McMahon suspended Hardy because of his actions.



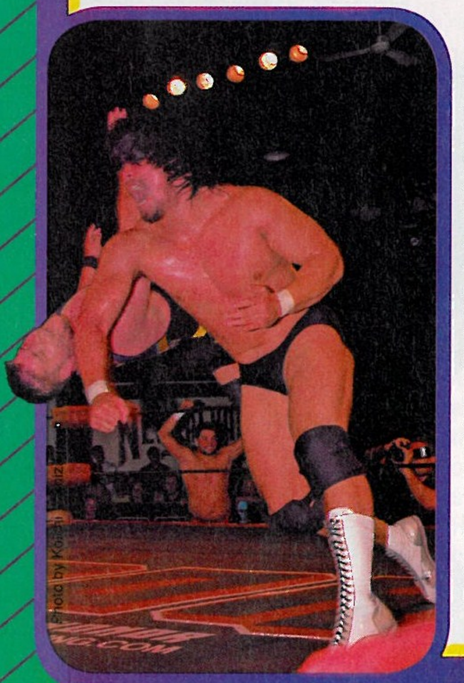


Photo by Steve Beyer

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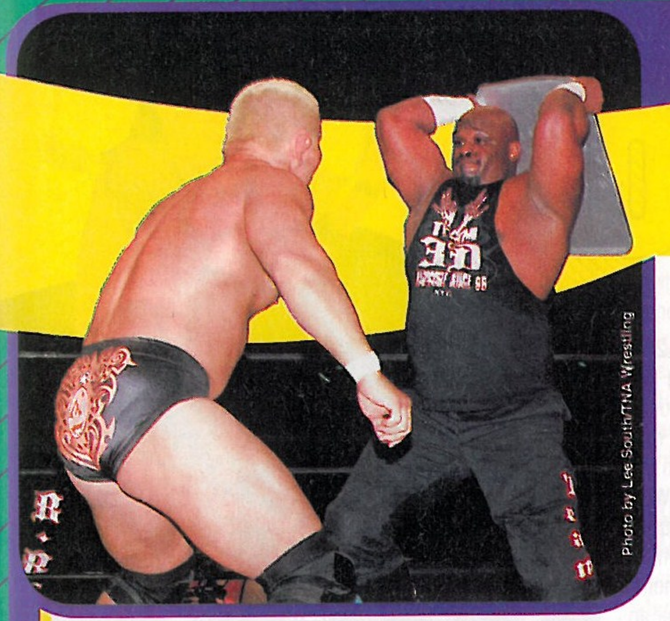
**67 ROB TERRY** (6'4", 260, 3, 230) Massive TNA competitor has 22-inch arms, a 48-inch chest, and not a whole lot of wrestling ability … Nevertheless, the Welsh-born big man has made a big splash over the past year … Spent most of his first year in TNA as the quiet enforcer of The British Invasion—a trio of wrestlers that included Brutus Magnus and Doug Williams … Proved to have more of a conscience than his teammates, and that led to infighting within the stable … Won an X division title shot in the 12-man Feast or Fired match at Final Resolution … Did not appreciate when Williams cashed in the title shot himself and left the British Invasion shortly afterward … Defeated fellow World Elite member Eric Young in his native Wales to capture the TNA Global title … Has successfully defended the title against the likes of Mr. Anderson, Homicide, Tomko, and Magnus … What he lacks in grace he makes up in brute strength.

**68 GO SHIOZAKI** (6', 231, 6, 120) A huge year for Pro Wrestling NOAH's shining light in difficult times, Shiozaki has skyrocketed himself up the ladder with big wins and good performances … Won the vacant GHC heavyweight title against Takeshi Rikio last June and devoted his reign to the late Mitsuharu Misawa, who had died in the ring just one day earlier … Managed one successful defense in his first reign with NOAH's top championship, pinning Akitoshi Saito … Lost the title to Takashi Sugiura in December … Competed in a feature match on New Japan's Tokyo Dome show against Hiroshi Tanahashi, an "ace-vs.-ace" encounter, where Shiozaki fought bravely before losing … Has had a fairly quiet year since then, but signs of progress came in late-May when he and Atsushi Aoki won the AAA tag team title from Takeshi Morishima and Taiji Ishimori … Defeats opponents with his Go Flasher, a vertical suplex turned into a headlock elbowdrop.




**69 DAVID HART SMITH** (6'5", 260, 10, 130) After several false starts in WWE dating back to 2006, third-generation wrestler finally hit his stride over the past year with a little help from his family … With his cousin Natalya and childhood friend Tyson Kidd, comprises The Hart Dynasty on RAW … Competed in several matches against Cryme Tyme in 2009 with the teams trading wins … Was part of the seven-man Team Smackdown that defeated Team Raw at Bragging Rights … Profile increased considerably upon the WWE return of his legendary uncle, Bret Hart … Helped Bret beat up on Vince McMahon at their WrestleMania 26 showdown … Earned a Unified tag team title shot by defeating the champions, The Miz and The Big Show, at Extreme Rules … Won the championship the very next night on *Raw* … Smith and Kidd beat Chris Jericho and The Miz in their first pay-per-view title defense at Over the Limit … Son of "The British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith is deceptively big, and developed his submission wrestling skills in the famed Hart Dungeon.

**70 SATOSHI KOJIMA** (6', 247, 19, 211) The All Japan veteran finally recaptured the Triple Crown last September after a three-year drought, ending the six-month reign of Yoshihiro Takayama … Despite a six-month reign of his own, he defended the title only once, pinning Joe Doering (Drake Brewer) … Lost the title in an upset to young Ryota Hama at All Japan's major Sumo Hall event in March … Dissolved his F4 (Friend Fight Fan and Future) faction recently, where he had mentored youngsters KAI and Hiroshi Yamato … Announced in April that he would leave All Japan after eight years with the company, but that he could return after right arm surgery … Continued to appear for a while after his injury, but his condition cost him several matches … Is now focusing on healing his arm before making a return to the ring … Despite approaching his 40th birthday, remains vibrant, energetic, and athletic, and will look to return stronger than ever.




## 6 TO 4

**71 HERNANDEZ** (6'2" 285, 14, 66) Strong Texan has split his time between TNA and AAA in recent months … After breaking up with LAX partner Homicide, became a top contender to the TNA World title … Attempted to cash in the guaranteed World title shot he earned in a Feast or Fired match, but was jumped and laid out by the Main Event Mafia on *Impact* … Then-TNA majority shareholder Mick Foley ruled that Hernandez would be given another shot at the title … Inserted himself in the four-man main event at No Surrender 2009 to make it a five-way match … Came up short in that bout … Formed a tag team with Matt Morgan in TNA last year that quickly found success … At Genesis 2010, teamed with Morgan to defeat The British Invasion and capture the TNA World tag team title … Lost to Morgan in an Eight-Card Stud tournament match at Against All Odds … After retaining the championship against Beer Money at Destination X, Morgan violently turned on Hernandez … Following the split, Hernandez spent three months in Mexico, for AAA … Joined the rudo faction Foreign Legion.

**72 CIBERNETICO** (6', 240, 18, 121) The self-proclaimed "God Of Lucha Libre" inserted himself into the feud between Mesias and Dr. Wagner Jr., and challenged for the AAA heavyweight title in several three-way hardcore and cage matches … Never captured the belt though … Occasionally appeared on the independent circuit, teaming with Tinieblas Jr. and Olimpico … Entered into a gruesome feud with Konnan and the Foreign Legion … Formed an alliance with the undefeated Psycho Circus stable, which created a powerful team that took out many members of the Legion … Forced to team up with former enemy Dr. Wagner Jr. to continue his feud with Konnan … Occasionally teamed with Heavy Metal and La Parka to defend the promotion … Also started feuding with the returning Vampiro … Formed a temporary tag team with TNA's Abyss to battle the Legion … Takes out his opponents with a powerful chokeslam.

**73 BROTHER DEVON** (6'1", 265, 19, 49) Powerhouse component of the most-decorated tag team in the history of the sport, Team 3-D … Added another championship to the nearly two dozen the tandem has won during its career when he and Brother Ray beat The British Invasion in a Full Metal Mayhem match at Bound for Glory to capture the IWGP tag team title … Lost those belts in January to Tetsuya Naito and Yujiro in Tokyo … Has picked up wins over the past year against two legendary teams, The Nasty Boys and Kevin Nash and Scott Hall … Native New Yorker was trained by WWE Hall-of-Famer Johnny Rodz, and today passes on some of those lessons to his own students at the Team 3-D Academy in Kissimmee, Florida … Has shown a soft spot for Academy graduate Jesse Neal, even as his partner Brother Ray has antagonized the former Navy petty officer … Has worked hard over the past year to drop weight and add muscle … Brother Ray may be known as the team mouthpiece, but Devon can communicate very well behind a microphone.

**74 CHRIS HERO** (6'3", 211, 12, 70) "That Knockout Kid" is one of Ring of Honor's brashest and best … Spent much of the second half of the year in a bitter feud with rugged indy stalwart Eddie Kingston … Lost to Kingston in their final match at December's Final Battle … Later that night re-united with former tag team partner Claudio Castagnoli and attacked the Briscoes … The reformed Kings of Wrestling had a successful Japanese tour in Pro Wrestling NOAH before returning to the States and beating the Briscoes in April to win their second ROH tag team title … Lost an ROH title match against champion Tyler Black in April … Japanese-inspired wrestler uses a loaded elbow pad, which he said was gifted to him by the late Mitsuharu Misawa, to knock out his opponents … Was with Misawa when the Japanese legend died in the ring last June … A frequent competitor in PWG, where he is a former heavyweight champion … Often seconds female grappler Sara del Rey for her Ring of Honor matches.

# PWI 500


Photo by Stu Saks

**75 TOGI MAKABE** (5'11", 243, 13, 287) The anti-hero of New Japan Pro Wrestling has grown into one of the most popular stars of the promotion … After winning the 2009 G1 Climax tournament over rival Shinsuke Nakamura, he tasted bitter failure, losing to the same man a month later in a match for the vacant IWGP heavyweight title … Continued to feud with Nakamura's CHAOS faction, a group that was formed after Nakamura raided Makabe's old GBH faction and took most of its members … Failed to win NOAH's GHC heavyweight title after an invasion on enemy soil in February, losing narrowly to Takashi Sugiura … Finishing as runner-up in the 2010 New Japan Cup continued a tradition for Makabe that has often resulted in him being called "Mr. Number Two" … The tradition was shattered in May when, in the biggest match of his career, he ended Shinsuke Nakamura's dominant reign as IWGP heavyweight champion to lift Japan's top prize for the first time … Now finally stands side by side with Tanahashi and Nakamura in New Japan.

**76 SHELTON BENJAMIN** (6'2", 248, 10, 31) Athletically gifted South Carolinian had a disappointing year … Spent his final year in WWE on its ECW brand, where he flew under the radar in feuds with Zack Ryder and Sheamus … Lost against ECW champion Christian in a championship ladder match at December's TLC pay-per-view … Participated in his fifth Money in the Bank ladder match at WrestleMania 26—the most times for any wrestler … His usual jaw-dropping antics were conspicuously absent in the bout, which was won by Jack Swagger … Three weeks later, he was released by WWE without much explanation … Two-time All-American has some of the best amateur credentials this side of Kurt Angle, but has never quite displayed the drive or charisma to become a top pro wrestler … Was slated to take part in Puerto Rican promotion WWC's Anniversary show in July … Rumors have swirled about Benjamin reuniting with his former tag team partner, Charlie Haas, in TNA.

**77 BROTHER RAY** (6'4", 290, 19, 43) Louder half of the extremely successful Team 3-D is as in-your-face as they come … Did not wear the TNA tag team championship during the entire grading period, but did hold the IWGP tag team title in TNA for close to three months … With his partner Brother Devon, Rhino, and protégé Jesse Neal, declared war on TNA's younger talent last fall … Traded victories with another loud-mouthed duo, The Nasty Boys, early in 2010 … Beat Kevin Nash and Scott Hall in a falls-count-anywhere street-fight at Lockdown … Attacked his former student, Neal, at Sacrifice after feeling disrespected by him … Brother Devon was not on board with Brother Ray's actions, leading to some dissent between the two … Queens, New York, native has never been an Adonis, but his conditioning suits his ring style perfectly … Could have a bright future one day as color commentator.

**78 YOSHI TATSU** (6'1", 230, 7, 219) Energetic member of WWE's Raw brand just looks happy to be part of the show … Arrived in ECW near the beginning of the grading period as part of then-General Manager Tiffany's "new superstar initiative" … Split his time between ECW and FCW for several months … Feud with William Regal saw the two wrestle each other on *ECW On Syfy* and also on *WWE Superstars* … In October, took on Christian for the ECW championship in a heck of a match, but came up short … Teamed with Christian the following week to beat Vladimir Kozlov and Ezekiel Jackson … Participated in the 2010 Royal Rumble match … Formed a tag team with Goldust early in the year that challenged for The Miz and The Big Show's Unified tag team title in the final episode of *ECW On Syfy* in February … Earned the biggest win of his career when he came out victorious in a 26-man battle royal at WrestleMania 26 before 72,000 fans.


Photo by George Napolitano

**79 KANE** (6'7", 323, 16, 37) Towering veteran had a relatively uneventful year between 2009 and 2010, but remains one of WWE's most intimidating figures … Had a rather disturbing feud with The Great Khali in the summer of 2009 that saw him kidnap Khali's interpreter and brother Ranjin Singh … Defeated Khali in a grudge match at SummerSlam and again in a Singapore Cane match at Breaking Point … Lost to Intercontinental champion Drew McIntyre at February's Elimination Chamber pay-per-view … Participation in the WrestleMania 26 Money in the Bank ladder match marked his 13th consecutive WrestleMania bout—a new record … Took on the entire cast of *NXT* rookies in an eight-on-one handicap match that he won by disqualification … Became enraged when he reportedly discovered his half-brother, The Undertaker, in a vegetative state over Memorial Day weekend, and vowed to find the person responsible … Wore the WWE heavyweight championship for 24 hours in 1998 … Height and strength makes his chokeslam one of the most dangerous in the sport.

**80 CLAUDIO CASTAGNOLI** (6'5", 240, 9, 67) Switzerland-born powerhouse comprises one-half of the Ring of Honor tag team champions with Chris Hero … The team, collectively known as The Kings of Wrestling, reunited at December's Final Battle after being broken up for two years … Castagnoli and Hero beat The Briscoe Brothers at April's Big Bang Internet pay-per-view in a possible Match of the Year candidate … Retained the championship by disqualification against The Motor City Machine Guns in May … Before reuniting with Hero was part of Prince Nana's Embassy faction, and feuded with the Colt Cabana and Brent Albright … Size, strength, and innovative offense would seemingly make "Double-C" a good fit in WWE … Was, in fact, briefly under a WWE developmental contract in 2006 … Has also seen action in CHIKARA, EVOLVE, and Japan's NOAH promotion over the past year … UFO no-hands airplane spin is one of the most unique and unbelievable moves in all of the sport.

**81 VOLADOR JR.** (5'9", 190, 10, 160) In his 10th year, the high-flyer is finally being taken seriously as a CMLL competitor … Continued to defend the tag team title with La Sombra against stables such as *Guerreros de la Atlantida* and *La Peste Negra* … Reformed his alliance with Mistico, and, along with Sombra, created a spectacular team that main-evented on several CMLL cards … Battled Mistico in the *Parejas Increibles* tournament, causing their friendship to crumble, as Mistico took their match too seriously and violently assaulted Volador, who became a top tecnico as a result … These events led to an intense feud between the two … Won the Mexican light heavyweight title from Mistico, but had difficulty collecting the hardware as Mistico refused to hand in the belt … Retained the title in a rematch … This feud resulted in a four-way mask match involving Mistico, Sombra, and Felino … Managed to keep his mask … Known for using dangerous moonsaults.

**82 TAKESHI RIKIO** (6'3", 300, 10, NL) A former sumo wrestler, Rikio is a mainstay for Pro Wrestling NOAH and remains one of its toughest competitors … Leader of NOAH's main heel faction DISOBEY, which also includes his close friend Mohammed Yone along with juniors Yoshinobu Kanemaru, Kotaro Suzuki, and Genba Hirayanagi … After failing to regain the GHC heavyweight title for the first time since 2005, chased tag gold with Yone and the two defeated the strong tandem of Kensuke Sasaki and Takeshi Morishima in December to capture the belts … He and Yone lost the tag belts to Americans Bison Smith and Keith Walker in April, Rikio being pinned by Smith … Was granted a shot at IWGP heavyweight champion Togi Makabe, but his scheduled challenge on New Japan turf was called off due to a neck injury … Has yet to live up to the expectations placed on him when he pinned legends Kobashi and Misawa in 2005, but remains an ever-present threat in NOAH … Finishes matches with his lethal Muso, a waist-lifted side slam.

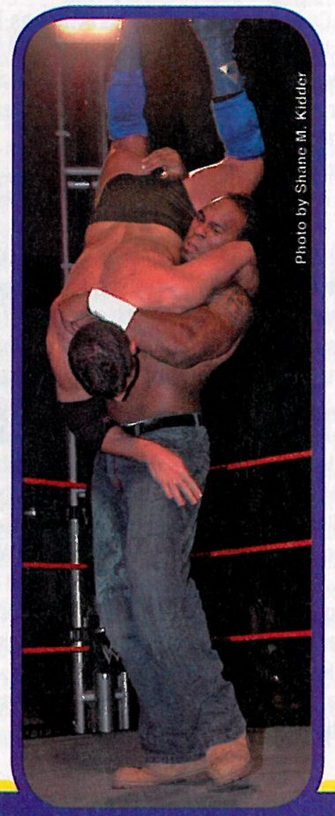
# PWI 500

## 83 DOS CARAS JR. (6'5", 210, 10, 88)

The "Hercules Potosino" has abandoned the Mexican rings in search of fame in America … Signed with WWE and was sent to FCW under the name of Alberto Banderas, where he debuted unmasked … This led to outrage from the lucha libre community, which called him a sellout … Battled The Dudebusters, Heath Slater, and Eric Escobar … Formed a team with Sicodelico Jr. before his cousin was released … Lost a four-way number-one contender's match for the FCW title … Debuted with the Raw brand as Dos Caras on the WrestleMania Revenge tour of Europe, losing to the likes of Christian and Evan Bourne … Appeared with the mask on a Mexican tour in May and was introduced by his father, Dos Caras Sr. … Scored wins over William Regal and Chavo Guerrero Jr. … Frequently competes in dark matches for both Raw and Smackdown … Knocks out his rivals with an enzuigiri kick.

## 84 JTG (6'1", 230, 8, 90)

Street-wise Smackdown competitor remains popular even after the collapse of his tag team, Cryme Tyme … With former partner Shad Gaspard, feuded with WWE Unified tag team champions Chris Jericho and The Big Show last summer, leading up to an unsuccessful title challenge at SummerSlam … With Shad, wrestled against The Hart Dynasty for much of the remainder of 2009 … Was quickly eliminated by C.M. Punk in the 2010 Royal Rumble … Hints of fighting within Cryme Tyme became apparent at the 26-man battle royal that opened WrestleMania when Shad eliminated JTG … Days later, Shad attacked JTG after the pair lost a match to R-Truth and John Morrison … Won a strap match against his former partner at Extreme Rules … Teamed with MVP to defeat The Dudebusters (Trent Beretta and Caylen Croft) on a May edition of *Smackdown* … Has picked up televised singles wins against Mike Knox and Croft, but hasn't enjoyed nearly the success and acclaim as he did as a member of Cryme Tyme.


Photo by Shane M. Kidder

## 85 SHAD GASPARD (6'6", 270, 7, 95)

Imposing Brooklynite has declared it is his "time" … Blew his top on former Cryme Tyme partner JTG in April, breaking up their alliance … Debuted the following week with a new look and a new, badder attitude … Showed some speaking ability while doing color commentary during a JTG match on *Smackdown* … Lost to JTG at Extreme Rules, but avenged the loss a few weeks later on *Superstars* … Took a hiatus from Smackdown late in the grading period to compete in WWE's developmental territory Florida Championship Wrestling, where he lost a match to Bo Rotundo and also attacked Eli Cottonwood … Along with the former "Muhammad Hassan" Mark Copani, created a graphic novel for Blackline Comics called *Assassin And Son: Path Of Vengeance* … With a bit more seasoning both in the ring and on the microphone, may have the size and look to become a heavyweight contender in the future.

## 86 MARK BRISCOE (6', 202, 10, 107)

High-impact style has forced the younger Briscoe brother to lose a lot of ring time over his career while healing injuries, but was active for most of the grading period … Returned to action in July of last year after being sidelined for seven months with a knee injury … Lost to his partner and brother, Jay, in a Pick Six ranking match in November … Won a record sixth ROH tag team championship in December when he and Jay beat The American Wolves … Successfully defended the championship against the Dark City Fight Club at ROH's Eighth Anniversary Show in New York City in February … Lost the title to the Kings of Wrestling in April … Was defeated by Kings member Chris Hero in a one-on-one match in Manassas, Virginia, in May … He and Jay became the first tag team champions of Maryland independent federation Real Championship Wrestling in October.


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

## 83 TO 90

## 87 AMAZING RED (5'6", 145, 11, 153)

Diminutive pioneer of TNA's X division has seen plenty of success since returning to the company last year … Won a five-way ladder match on the October 1 *Impact* to become number-one contender for the X title … Defeated Samoa Joe a week later to win the championship for the first time in more than six years … Low-key competitor briefly took on TNA pitchman Don West as his manager and mouthpiece … Retained the title in a six-man Ultimate X match at Bound for Glory … Had successful title defenses against Homicide and Brian Kendrick … Lost the title in controversial fashion to Doug Williams in January … Was a fixture of TNA's weekly Wednesday night pay-per-views eight years ago, when Red was just 20 … A bigger hindrance than Red's size is his charisma, or lack of it … TNA may have its own version of Rey Mysterio Jr. if the exciting Brooklyn native could ever come out of his shell.

## 88 ALEX SHELLEY (5'10", 207, 8, 32)

With partner Chris Sabin comprises The Motor City Machine Guns—a team whose talent and fan appeal belies its limited success … Complained about being held back last summer, when they could be seen in the Impact Zone holding signs that read, "Conspiracy Victims" and "Yes, We Still Work Here" … At Bound for Glory, defeated the team of Generation Me to earn a spot in the Ultimate X match for the X division title later that night … He and Sabin have won several matches over the past year to determine the number-one contendership to the TNA tag team championship, but have emerged unsuccessful in every title opportunity … Defeated Doug Williams in a one-on-one bout on the December 3 *Impact* … Guns have made a few appearances for ROH over the past year, including a tag team championship match against Chris Hero and Claudio Castagnoli in May … Lost that match by DQ when the Briscoes interfered … A former X division champion.

## 89 MOHAMMED YONE (6', 220, 14, NL)

One of Pro Wrestling NOAH's most notorious bad boys, Yone serves as second-in-command in the DISOBEY faction, backing up his close friend Takeshi Rikio … His GHC tag team title reign with Rikio was his first championship in nearly three years … Stormed into New Japan at the Tokyo Dome in January, but a sneak-attack on Togi Makabe backfired as he was beaten soundly by the NJPW star in five minutes … Remained strong as a tag specialist in NOAH with Rikio until the two lost their belts to Bison Smith and Keith Walker … Held the legendary Toshiaki Kawada to a time-limit draw during NOAH's Global Tag League in April, showing his value as a singles wrestler … Once known as "Mr. Afro" for his crazy hair styles, nowadays he sports short hair to better suit his heel image … As he has for much of his career going back to his days in BattlARTS, Yone finishes matches with a brutal musclebuster.

## 90 LUKE GALLOWS (6'8", 302, 5, 138)

The one-time country bumpkin found salvation last year when he became the charter member of C.M. Punk's Straight Edge Society … Returned to Smackdown after a lengthy hiatus in November, at which time Punk revealed that the former Festus' mind had been damaged by drug abuse … Scored the winning pinfall in his first match upon his return, a tag team bout with Punk against R-Truth and Matt Hardy … With help from Punk and fellow SES member Serena, has scored singles wins against Rey Mysterio Jr. and Matt Hardy … Competed in the dark match 26-man battle royal at WrestleMania 26 … Lost to Punk's rookie, Darren Young, on an episode of *NXT* … Calls his inverted full nelson-spinebuster finisher the Twelfth Step … Quite limber for his size, and very strong … Maryland native's previous wrestling personalities have included the Freakin' Deacon and the impostor-Kane.

# PWI 500

**91 LA SOMBRA** (5'10", 175, 7, 191) The 20-year-old with seven years of pro experience jumped 100 positions with a superb year … Defended the CMLL tag team title with Volador Jr. against the *Guerreros de la Atlantida* and *La Peste Negra* stables … Formed a spectacular three-man team with Mistico and Volador that headlined several shows … Helped Volador battle Mistico and *La Peste Negra* … Biggest victory came when he won a four-way mask match involving Volador, Mistico, and Felino … Took the mask of Felino … Occasionally teamed with Brazo de Plata and Hijo del Fantasma … Won the CMLL trios title with La Mascara and Mascara Dorada from New Japan's Taichi, Okumura, and Hiroshi Tanahashi … Traveled to Japan to compete in New Japan's Best of Super Juniors tournament, where he picked up a shocking victory over Tiger Mask IV … Uses the split-legged moonsault to finish opponents.

**92 KAZARIAN** (6'1", 215, 12, NL) Three-time X division champ was absent from TNA television for 18 months until his return in February … First match back was an eight-man tag team match in which he partnered with Amazing Red and Generation Me to defeat Doug Williams, Brian Kendrick, and The Motor City Machine Guns … Won a four-way X division match at Destination X … Beat Shannon Moore and Homicide in a three-way match at Lockdown to capture the vacant X division title, which had been stripped from Williams earlier in the night … Lost the title back to Williams at Sacrifice … Won an eight-man X division battle royal to earn his way into TNA's official top 10 rankings … Impressive performances caught the eye of Ric Flair, who recruited Kazarian into his fold … Defeated Jay Lethal on the May 25 edition of *Impact* … Appeared to be developing a rift with another protégé of Flair, AJ Styles … Competed in WWE Smackdown for a short time in 2005.



Photo by George Napolitano

**93 EZEKIEL JACKSON** (6'4", 305, 3, 142) Harlem-born colossus lays claim to being the last-ever ECW champion … Formed an alliance with fellow big man Vladimir Kozlov and William Regal during last summer … The triad feuded with ECW champion Christian, with Jackson seconding Regal for several title challenges … Feuded with Kozlov after the Russian was kicked out of the three-man stable … Beat Kozlov in a match to qualify for the ECW Homecoming battle royal … Won the battle royal on January 12 to earn an ECW title shot … Lost the championship match against Christian at the Royal Rumble … Pinned Christian in an Extreme Rules match to win the championship the final episode of *ECW* on *Syfy* on February 16 … After ECW folded, was moved to the Smackdown brand, where he beat Jimmy Wang Yang on March 5 … Was drafted to Raw in April … Family issues and a quadriceps injury have rendered him inactive for several months … Has a great look that could take him far in the sport.

**94 CARLITO** (5'10", 220, 10, 64) Once-promising star appears to have squandered his opportunity for success in the United States for the immediate future … Wore the WWE Unified tag team championship with his brother Primo early in the grading period before dropping the title to Edge and Chris Jericho in July … After the loss, Carlito turned on Primo, leading to a brief feud … Lost a six-pack challenge match for the U.S. title at Night of Champions … Feuded with Chris Masters on the lowest end of WWE cards late in 2009 … Was assigned as a "pro" in the first season of *NXT*, mentoring Michael Tarver … Was slated to wrestle Primo on a May edition of *Superstars*, but stopped the match mid-stream and reconciled with his younger brother … The Colon Brothers' reunion was short-lived, as Carlito was released from WWE weeks later after the company reported that he had failed a drug test and refused to go to rehab … Will likely always have a job in Puerto Rico's WWC—the promotion run by his famous father, Carlos Colon.







Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

# PWI 500

**95 CHRIS SABIN** (5'10", 205, 10, 52) Detroit native makes up one-half of TNA X division tag team,The Motor City Machine Guns … With partner Alex Shelley held the IWGP junior tag team championship until losing it in July 2009 to Ryusuke Taguchi and Prince Devitt … Was part of an alliance led by Christopher Daniels that feuded with Eric Young's World Elite faction last summer … Had a scary moment during an October match against Team 3-D when he landed awkwardly on his head during a move and was knocked unconscious … Was reported to have suffered a concussion in the incident … Beat all three members of The British Invasion in a three-on-one handicap match in December … Challenged The British Invasion for the TNA tag team championship at Final Resolution, but came out on the losing end … Has the second-most X division title reigns, with four, behind AJ Styles' six … When not wrestling alongside Shelley, can be found playing music with him in their Detroit-area rock band, The High Crusade.

**96 KENNY KING** (6', 230, 8, 202) Big-talking Orlando resident has made a name for himself in ROH, where he formed an alliance last year with then-heavyweight champion Austin Aries and Rhett Titus … After defeating Jerry Lynn in a singles match on ROH's HDNet show last August, he and Titus brutally attacked the former heavyweight champ—putting him out of action with a spike piledriver … Lynn returned months later looking to get revenge on King … Won a grudge match against Lynn by disqualification when the referee overturned Lynn's initial victory because Lynn piledrove King onto a chair after the bell … Was chosen by Aries as his ringside judge in an ROH title defense against Tyler Black in a February bout … Despite King's best attempts to help Aries retain the title, Black won it … Challenged Black for the ROH title in April, but was unsuccessful … Made it to the finals of the second season of WWE's reality show *Tough Enough* before losing to Jackie Gayda and Linda Miles … Remember them?



Photo by George Napolitano

**97 PHIL SHATTER** (6'3", 242, 9, 239) The "Universal Soldier" has been the reigning NWA National heavyweight champion since defeating Crusher Hansen for the belt in January of 2009 … Retained his title against three-time NWA heavyweight champion Adam Pearce in February … Challenged for the heavyweight title in a three-way elimination match that included then-champ Blue Demon Jr. and Pearce, but was pinned by Pearce, who won the title … Cut his teeth in the sport competing in NWA Anarchy in the Northern Georgia area and now is a regular competitor in NWA New Beginnings … Hickory, North Carolina, native has successfully defended his championship more than a dozen times throughout several states, including against Slim J and Caprice Coleman … Had a cameo on a June 2009 episode of *TNA Impact* as a security guard … Beat Zack Salvation in the opening match of ROH's April Internet pay-per-view, Big Bang … Spent four years in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**98 BxB HULK** (5'10", 172, 5, 341) The dancing pretty boy of Dragon Gate has still yet to fulfill his potential but is a leading figure in one of Japan's most popular promotions … Still can't get his hands on the Open the Dream Gate title, Dragon Gate's highest honor, but came within an inch of it in November when he pushed champion Naruki Doi to his limits in a 30-minute blockbuster … Five days after that, he won a tournament at Dragon Gate USA's Freedom Fight PPV in Philadelphia to become the first-ever Open the Freedom Gate champion … Recently pinned Masato Yoshino in his fourth defense … The charismatic young star remains a member of Dragon Gate's WORLD-1 group alongside Naruki Doi, Yoshino, and others … Was scheduled to face old rival Shingo Takagi at DG's annual Kobe World Hall show in July … Can finish matches with any of several finishers, including the E.V.O.P., a vertical suplex dropped into a sit-out side powerslam.

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# 99-100

**99 MARK HENRY** (6'3", 392, 14, 45) Texas behemoth has the fourth longest uninterrupted WWE career, behind only The Undertaker, Triple-H, and Kane … After having one of the best years of his career in ECW, was shifted to the Raw brand in June of 2009 … Pinned then-WWE champion Randy Orton in his first night on the brand, and won over fans in the process … Formed a tag team with Montel Vontavious Porter that had moderate success, but was unable to dethrone WWE tag team titleholders Chris Jericho and The Big Show at Breaking Point … Won a bodyslam challenge against The Big Show in September … Recorded wins against Chris Masters, Cody Rhodes, Carlito, and Zack Ryder during the grading period … "World's Strongest Man" holds the world record for unequipped squat lift at 948 pounds … Also holds the record for most times announced as a "surprise opponent" in WWE … Showed off his freestyle rapping skills on a November episode of *Raw* … Should keep his day job.

**100 HEATH SLATER** (6'2", 235, 5, 192) Self-proclaimed "one-man rock band" finished only fourth in WWE's inaugural *NXT* competition, but looked impressive along the way … Spent four years honing his craft in WWE's developmental territory, Florida Championship Wrestling, before getting the *NXT* "rookie" gig in February … Won the FCW heavyweight title in August 2009 from Tyler Reks and kept it for about six weeks before being beaten by Justin Gabriel… Under the tutelage of his *NXT* pro Christian, scored a huge upset victory against Chris Jericho in April … Student of former WWE and WCW star Curtis Hughes arguably showed more drive and aptitude than any of his *NXT* classmates.




# PWI 500

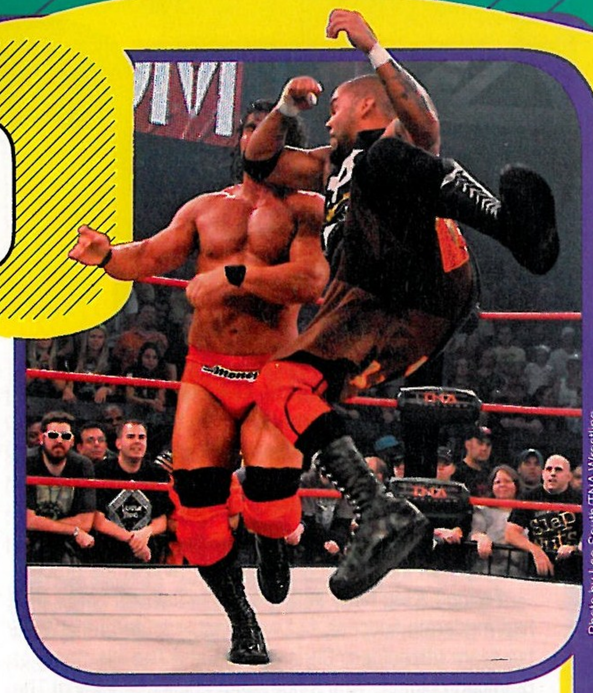


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

**101 COLT CABANA** (6'1", 235, 11, 238) ROH veteran has been involved in some serious feuds over the past year … Lost a December steel cage match for the ROH title to then-champ Austin Aries in Chicago Ridge … As a stipulation of the match, Cabana can never again challenge for the ROH title in his hometown of Chicago … Interjected himself into the feud between Kevin Steen and El Generico—teaming with Generico in a series of grudge matches against Steen and Steve Corino … One-time WWE competitor has show biz aspirations, and performed several stand-up comedy shows with Mick Foley in 2009.

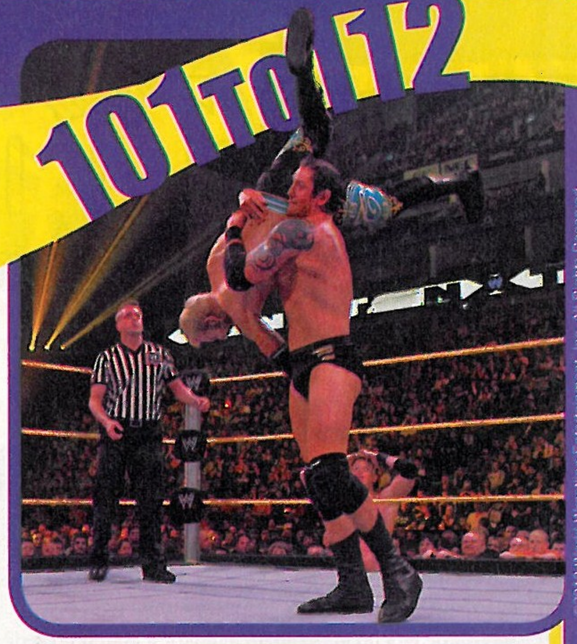
**102 HOMICIDE** (5'10", 205, 17, 79) The "Notorious 1-8-7" won his first X division title in June of last year when he cashed in his Feast or Fired guaranteed title shot against Suicide … Lost the belt to Samoa Joe at Hard Justice in August … Turned on former LAX partner Hernandez in September and joined The World Elite … Lost an X division title match to Amazing Red at Turning Point … Brawled at ringside with the debuting Jeff Hardy in the special three-hour January 4 edition of *Impact* … Won a four-way X-scape cage match at Lockdown … Remains a fixture of the Northeast independent scene.

**103 JON MOXLEY** (6'3", 220, 6, 471) Versatile sensation of the independent wrestling scene currently holds the heavyweight titles in Philadelphia's Combat Zone Wrestling, Inidiana's Insanity Pro Wrestling, and Florida's Full Impact Pro … Beat B-Boy for the CZW title in February and Roderick Strong for the FIP title in April … Has teamed with Sami Callihan as part of The Switchblade Conspiracy … Has risen from humble beginnings in Cincinnati, where he trained under Les Thatcher in Heartland Pro Wrestling … Adept at both the ultra-violent hardcore style and the more technical style that he employs in Dragon Gate USA and EVOLVE.

**104 AVERNO** (5'9", 170, 15, 110) Frequently teamed with Mephisto as *Los Sicarios del Infierno* … Despite some modest success, the team failed to win the CMLL tag title … After a long reign as a double-CMLL middleweight champion, he finally lost a belt to Hijo del Fantasma … Engaged in a heated feud with Volador Jr. over the NWA middleweight title, which he was able to retain in two matches … Wrestled in the *Parejas Increibles* tournament, where he was teamed with Mistico … Played an important part in Mistico's heel turn, influencing him to attack his friend Volador … Wins matches with a double-underhook facebuster.

**105 YUJI NAGATA** (6', 238, 18, 65) The ever-impressive veteran of New Japan remains one of the country's standout wrestlers and shows no signs of slowing down at the age of 42 … Challenged Shinsuke Nakamura for the IWGP heavyweight title at the end of last year but was unable to regain the belt … Formed a group called *Aogi-gun* this year, which is devoted to justice and honor, and is comprised of himself, Super Strong Machine, Wataru Inoue, and Mitsuhide Hirasawa … Persisted in mentoring the underachieving Inoue, which led to them winning the IWGP tag team title from NO LIMIT (Yujiro and Tetsuya Naito) in May.

**106 DELIRIOUS** (5'11", 189, 9, 131) Masked oddball is a popular fixture in ROH, where he moonlights as the head trainer for the company's wrestling school … Spent several months in 2009 involved in a rivalry with Prince Nana's Embassy faction … Complex relationship with Daizee Haze is not unlike that between George Steele and Miss Elizabeth in the mid-1980s … Has been embroiled in a bitter grudge with Austin Aries since Aries kicked him in the throat, and then attacked Haze as she tried to render aid … Incoherent resident of "The Edge Of Sanity" is a frequent competitor in CHIKARA.



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## 101 TO 112

**107 MAGNUS** (6'3", 240, 10, 173) Chiseled Englishman had a successful 2009, in which he led his British Invasion stable to tag team gold on two occasions … With partner Doug Williams, beat Team 3-D in July of last year to capture the IWGP tag team championship … Lost the belts in a four-team Full Metal Mayhem match at Bound for Glory, but won the TNA tag team championship from Scott Steiner and Booker T in the same match … Successfully defended the championship against The Motor City Machine Guns and Beer Money Inc. before losing it to Hernandez and Matt Morgan in January … Has made very few TNA TV appearances since March.

**108 JERRY LYNN** (5'11", 212, 22, 40) Minnesota veteran continues to keep a busy schedule after more than two decades in the sport … Very early in the grading period, lost the ROH heavyweight championship to Austin Aries in a three-way match that also included Tyler Black … Was nearly forced to retire after being attacked by Kenny King and Rhett Titus … Returned months later to seek revenge on King, and beat him in a no-disqualification match in March … The only wrestler to have held championships in ROH, ECW, TNA, and WWE … Forty-seven-year-old says he as no plans to retire.

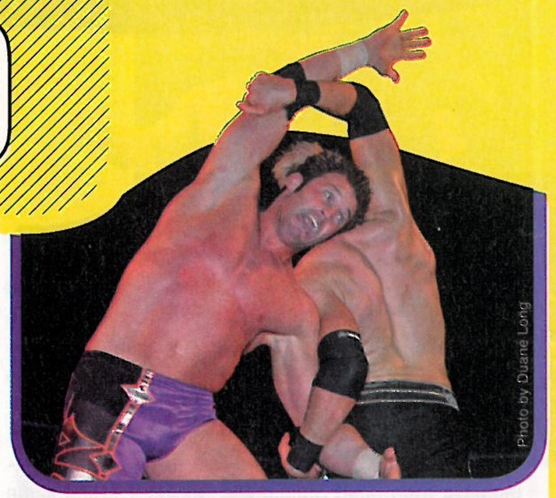
**109 WADE BARRETT** (6'5", 265, 6, NL) British big man was dominant in the first season of *WWE NXT* … Throughout the season, impressed WWE pros—including his assigned mentor Chris Jericho— with his confidence, speaking ability, and in-ring skill … Recruited by Jericho to serve in a bodyguard role in his feud with Edge on Smackdown … Picked up wins against fellow "rookies" David Otunga, Heath Slater, Skip Sheffield, and Darren Young … A former tag team champion in WWE's developmental territory, FCW, with partner Drew McIntyre … Claims to be a former European bare knuckles fighting champion … Regal competitor appears, at first blush, to have many of the tools necessary to go quite far in WWE.

**110 NARUKI DOI** (5'8, 181, 10, 128) Nicknamed "Bosou Muscle," the talented Doi led Dragon Gate with an iron grip for all of 2009, holding the Open the Dream Gate title from December '08 to March '10 … Had eight successful defenses over the likes of NJPW's Koji Kanemoto, AJPW's Akebono, and Dragon Gate legend CIMA … Finally lost the title at Tokyo's Sumo Hall this March on Dragon Gate's biggest show of 2010, meeting his match in YAMATO … Remains the leader of the WORLD-1 group … Has one of the most impressive finishers in all of wrestling, the Muscular Bomb, a half-nelson lift turned into a brutal wheelbarrow driver.

**111 MEPHISTO** (5'9", 191, 21, NL) Son of legendary Astro Rey … Frequently teamed with Averno as *Los Sicarios del Infierno* … Couldn't regain the CMLL tag title from La Sombra and Volador … Later teamed with Ephesto, but they couldn't defeat the champions either … Beat La Sombra for the NWA welterweight title … Successfully defended his belt against Mistico, Valiente, and La Mascara … His singles run would be paused again, as he returned to *Los Hijos del Averno* with Averno and Ephesto to battle in several main-event tag matches.

**112 STEVE CORINO** (6'1", 225, 16, 84) The "King Of Old School" returned to the national stage in December as part of ROH … Has teamed with and mentored Kevin Steen following Steen's split with long-time partner El Generico … The alliance has led to some bloody grudge matches against Generico and Colt Cabana … Currently holds the heavyweight title in Pro Wrestling WORLD-1, where his 14-year-old son, Colby, is learning the ropes … Former Tri-State Wrestling Alliance heavyweight champ … List of independent titles held over his career could fill up this whole page … A recognized former world champion during his days with ECW.

# PWI 500


Photo by Duane Lung

**113 GOLDUST** (6'5", 260, 21, 180) The "Bizarre One" continues to provide WWE fans with a guilty pleasure, and the WWE locker room with a valuable veteran presence … Spent much of the grading period competing in ECW, where he feuded with Sheamus upon the "Celtic Warrior's" debut last June … Formed a tag team with Yoshi Tatsu that unsuccessfully challenged for the WWE Unified tag team championship on the last episode of *ECW On Syfy* in February … Had a very solid match against then-WWE World champion Chris Jericho in the main event of a March episode of *Superstars* … After years of battling weight issues, appears to be in great ring shape.

**114 JOE HENNIG** (6'3", 235, 3, 221) Champlin, Minnesota, native says he is "wrestling royalty" … With fellow third-generation wrestler, Brett DiBiase, competed in WWE developmental league, FCW, as The Fortunate Sons … The two wore the FCW tag team championship for three months after beating The Dudebusters in January … Was slated to be part of the second *WWE NXT* competition … Utilizes several of his famous father, Curt Hennig's, signature wrestling moves, including the rolling neck snap and the Perfectplex fisherman's suplex … A former FCW heavyweight champion and *PWI* Rookie of the Year.

**115 MASAKATSU FUNAKI** (6', 209, 25, NL) The legendary shooter who debuted for New Japan Pro Wrestling at the age of 15 in 1985 returned to wrestling last August after 17 years away … Made his return for friend Keiji Muto's All Japan Pro Wrestling in a dream tag match where he and Muto faced fellow veterans Masahiro Chono and Minoru Suzuki … Dominated long feud with Suzuki until Suzuki bested him in the Champion Carnival 2010 final … He and Muto won the AJPW tag team title from Suzuki and Taiyo Kea in January … Now friends with Suzuki as part of a veteran force battling the young upstarts of All Japan.

**116 MAX BUCK** (5'11", 195, 6, 229) Teams with his brother, Jeremy Buck, in TNA as Generation Me … The dark-haired one … Also goes by Matt Jackson on the independent scene, where he and his brother are known as The Young Bucks … The duo earned a reputation in 2009 as the hottest tag team act on the independent scene … Had a show-stealing performance in Dragon Gate USA's inaugural event, where they defeated CIMA and Susumu Yokosuka … Upset The Motor City Machine Guns in their January TNA debut … Married 24-year-old says he knew he wanted to become a wrestler after attending a live WWE event in Southern California in 1995.

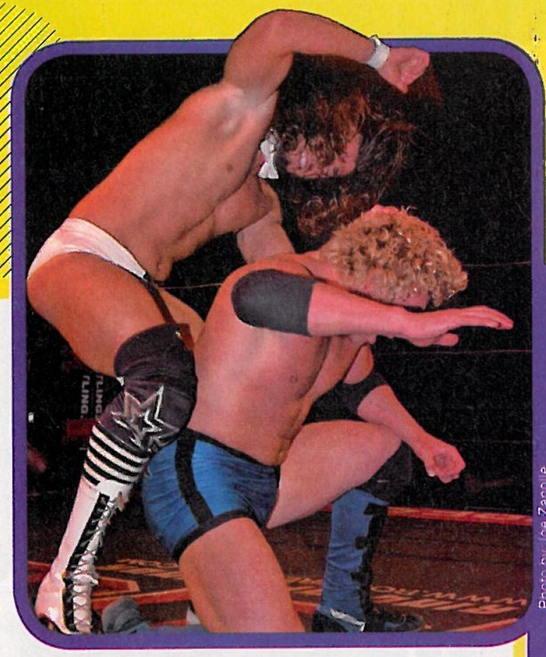
**117 ZACK RYDER** (6'1", 214, 6, 199) Long Islander has been climbing up the WWE ladder since splitting with his long-time partner, Curt Hawkins, in the spring of 2009 … Spent much of the grading period in ECW, where he had a lengthy feud with Shelton Benjamin … Won a September battle royal to earn an ECW title shot against Christian the following week … Had a good showing in that match, but could not win it … Has called both Rosa Mendez and Alicia Fox his "girlfriends" … Moved to Raw in February … Guest host Astin Kutcher paid Fox to blindside Ryder during a May *Raw* … A former WWE tag team champion.

**118 EL GENERICO** (5'11", 185, 8,163) Beloved "generic luchador" has been embroiled in one of ROH's most personal grudges since his long-time tag team partner Kevin Steen turned on him in December … Before splitting with Steen, picked up tag team victories in the grading period against The Young Bucks and The Super Smash Brothers … Teamed with Colt Cabana to beat Steen and Steve Corino in a wild streetfight in April … Teamed with Paul London in May to win the Pro Wrestling Guerilla tag team title—his fifth … Also a former PWG heavyweight and ROH tag team champion … Top turnbuckle brainbuster is devastating.



Photo by Steve Beyer

# PWI 500


Photo by Joe Zanolle

**119 JEREMY BUCK** (5'11", 200, 6, 235) Younger half of the tag team known as Generation Me in TNA and The Young Bucks everywhere else … The blond one … Also goes by Nick Jackson … With brother Matt/Max, held the Pro Wrestling Guerilla tag team championship for a record 20 months until May of this year … At Destination X, competed in a thrilling Ultimate-X match against The Motor City Machine Guns, but lost … Occasionally appears in ROH, where he and his brother beat El Generico and Kevin Steen at December's Final Battle … Tag team coordination may be the best in the business.

**120 KEIJI MUTO** (6'2", 243, 27, 15) The legendary "Wrestling Master," better known as The Great Muta to American fans, has continued to juggle his presidency of All Japan Pro Wrestling with in-ring responsibilities … Winning the AJPW tag team title with Masakatsu Funaki in January added just one more achievement to his overflowing cabinet of titles and trophies … Wrestling for years with serious knee problems has again caught up to Muto, who underwent reconstructive knee surgery in April, cutting his year short … Not expected back until 2011 … Time passes but the aura and charisma of Muto make him one of Japan's most enduring, beloved, and popular stars.

**121 SUWAMA** (6'2", 265, 6, 132) The formidable big man is one of All Japan's top stars despite the relative brevity of his career … Has yet to top his momentous achievement of winning the Triple Crown in 2008 … Reached the semifinal of the 2010 Champion Carnival tournament before losing to eventual winner Minoru Suzuki … Formed a coalition of youth in May along with former rivals Masayuki Kono and Ryota Hama in an attempt to bring down the veterans of All Japan … Finishes matches with the Last Ride, the high-impact power bomb popularized by The Undertaker.

**122 KARL ANDERSON** (6', 240, 8, 214) The "Machine Gun" remains almost exclusively based in New Japan and relatively unknown to many fans of his native U.S. … With Bad Intentions teammate Giant Bernard, the two are constantly in the IWGP tag team title picture but have yet to get their hands on the belts … Followed Bernard out of the heel CHAOS faction to form an unlikely alliance with the New Japan home team in April … Ends matches with the Gun Stun, an interesting variation of the "Stone-Cold" Stunner, where he runs up to his opponent before hitting it.

**123 RHETT TITUS** (6'2", 217, 5, 106) Irritating ROH rulebreaker has forged some important alliances in the past year … Frequently teams with Kenny King in a duo dubbed The All Night Express … Watched Austin Aries' back throughout much of Aries' ROH heavyweight title reign between 2009 and 2010 … He and King beat The Young Bucks in October … Lost to ROH champion Tyler Black in a televised singles match in April … Held the FIP Florida Heritage title for six months in 2009 … The current NWA Force-1 Heritage champ, after beating Nicky Benz in April … "Addicted To Love" is as creepy and gross as men come.

**124 SHANNON MOORE** (5'9", 175, 15, 188) Body modification enthusiast followed his long-time friend Jeff Hardy into TNA in January … Attacked X division champion Doug Williams on the March 8 *Impact* … Got a title shot against Williams a few days later at Destination X, but lost … In May, formed a tag team with fellow tattoo aficionado, the Mohawk-sporting Jesse Neal … Ink Inc., as they called themselves, challenged The Band for the TNA tag team championship at Sacrifice, but was unsuccessful … In November, took part in Hulk Hogan's "Hulkamania" tour of Australia … Has experience in WCW and WWE.


Photo by George Napolitano

**125 PRIMO COLON** (5'10", 218, 11, 76) Member of the famed Colon wrestling family has struggled in WWE since splitting with brother and tag team partner Carlito early in the grading period … A member of the Raw brand, but primarily competes on *WWE Superstars*, where he has dropped matches to Randy Orton, Jack Swagger, and Zack Ryder … Picked up a win against Chris Masters … Briefly reunited with his older brother in May, but Carlito was released from WWE days later … Still regularly competes in Puerto Rico's World Wrestling Council, which is owned by his father, Carlos.

**126 WILLIAM REGAL** (6'2", 240, 26, 41) Englishman is among the most experienced hands in the entire WWE locker room … Spent much of the year in ECW, where he was a constant thorn in the side of Christian … Formed a stable called The Ruthless Roundtable, which included Ezekiel Jackson and Vladimir Kozlov, to help in his quest for the ECW title … Challenged for the title at SummerSlam 2009, but was pinned by Christian in nine seconds … Mentored Skip Sheffield in the first season of *NXT* … One of the most talented WWE competitors never to have won a world title.

**127 YUJIRO** (5'10", 231, 6, 166) One-half of NO LIMIT with Tetsuya Naito, the two juniors-turned-heavyweights returned to New Japan from the USA and Mexico this January … Wasted no time in making a huge impact, as he and Naito defeated Team 3-D and Bad Intentions in a three-way match at the Tokyo Dome to win the IWGP tag title … Their cocky and disrespectful attitudes caught the attention of Tanahashi and Nagata, and hostilities soon ensued … He and Naito were lured into Shinsuke Nakamura's CHAOS group in April, replacing the outgoing Bad Intentions (Giant Bernard and Karl Anderson).

**128 ERICK STEVENS** (5'11", 248, 7, 127) One-time ROH fan favorite underwent an attitude change in November and joined Prince Nana's sinister Embassy faction … Has teamed with fellow Embassy members Shawn Daivari and Bison Smith in a lengthy feud with Necro Butcher … Lost to Butcher at ROH's April Internet pay-per-view Big Bang … Held the FIP tag team championship in his native Florida for more than nine months until his partner, Roderick Strong, turned on him in October, causing them to lose the belts to The British Lions … Traded in his Mohawk for a more conservative haircut.

**129 BRIAN KENDRICK** (5'8", 184, 11, 62) Has kept a high profile in the sport even after being released in July 2009 from WWE, where he worked for nearly seven years … Seemed to be heading toward a feud with Jerry Lawler in WWE before being fired … Lost to CIMA at Dragon Gate USA's Untouchable event in September … Debuted in TNA at Genesis as the surprise challenger for Amazing Red's X division championship … Reunited with former WWE tag team partner Paul London at a PWG show in January … Lays claim to having once competed for a world title on a WWE pay-per-view.

**130 THE GREAT KHALI** (7'3", 420, 10, 118) One-time world champion is now largely around to provide comic relief in WWE … Had an unnerving feud with Kane last summer that saw him lose back-to-back matches on pay-per-view … Has taken part in numerous comedy segments on *Raw*, including one in which he judged a talent show alongside Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne and another in which he portrayed SNL character MacGruber's brother, "Khaluber" … In April, claimed he was taking an extended hiatus to return to his native India, but was back on WWE TV within weeks … Gigantic and extremely powerful.

# PWI 500

**131 TYSON DUX** (5'10", 200, 8, 98) One of the most sought-after talents in the Ontario independent scene … "Textbook" was a regular in both Border City Wrestling and BSE Pro before the promotions merged this year to create Maximum Pro Wrestling … The reigning Max Pro triple-crown champion … Has experience in both TNA and ROH, where he lost a match to Nigel McGuinness in July of 2009 … Handsome Windsor, Ontario, resident looks like a smaller John Cena … Began his career as a high-flyer but has developed into a more well-rounded wrestler with a solid grasp of the fundamentals.

**132 KENTA** (5'8", 180, 10, 74) One of Pro Wrestling NOAH's most recognizable faces … Was on a roll as GHC junior heavyweight champion last year, successfully defending the belt in his native Japan as well as in the U.S. … A serious knee injury suffered last October forced him to vacate the title … Has spent much of 2010 rehabilitating his knee … Was scheduled to return at Korakuen Hall on June 6 against his former tag partner and long-time rival Naomichi Marufuji … The master of the Busaiku knee kick is likely to make a big impact on returning.

**133 CHESSMAN** (6', 230, 15, 75) The "Apostle Of Evil" looks to regain dominance in the AAA singles division … Continued his violent feud with Charly Manson, which included several hardcore matches … Was scheduled to face Manson in a hair-vs.-hair match, but Manson quit the company days before the match was to take place … Electroshock battled Chessman instead, and Chessman ended up shaving his head … Returned to the Foreign Legion when the faction was revived … Won the *Rey de Reyes* tournament by defeating Marco Corleone and Hernandez in the finals … Formed a tag team with the returning Vampiro … Takes out his opponents with a powerful spear.

**134 JAY LETHAL** (5'9", 192, 8, 83) Three-time X division champ had an uneventful 2009 in TNA, but is gaining momentum in 2010 … Teamed with Consequences Creed to form the rather forgettable duo of Lethal Consequences … Late in 2009, "Black Machismo" put out an open challenge to wrestling legends … Jim Neidhart and Tatanka both accepted the challenge and beat him in separate matches … Just when you thought wrestling impersonations don't get much better than Lethal's take on Randy Savage, we heard his uncanny impression of Ric Flair … Flair didn't much appreciate the homage … Teamed with Rob Van Dam to defeat Flair's henchmen, Beer Money Inc., in May.

**135 ORLANDO JORDAN** (6'4", 257, 11, NL) For better or for worse, the talented but controversial former WWE mid-carder has made quite the impression since re-emerging on the national scene with TNA over the past year … Blurring the line between his out-of-the-ring lifestyle and his in-ring persona, the openly bisexual Jordan has become a ubiquitous (and often bizarre) presence in the Impact Zone … Has fared surprisingly well in his feud with D'Angelo Dinero and fought Rob Terry on fairly equal terms … Jordan's natural athleticism and his ability to finish matches with high-impact moves either from the mat or the ropes makes him dangerous against opponents of varying styles.

**136 FINLAY** (6'2", 233, 36, 47) Still tough as nails at age 52 … Has scaled back on active wrestling to focus on his role as WWE road agent and trainer … Remains a dangerous competitor anytime he steps in the ring as well as a fringe contender for the Intercontinental championship … Gaining Finlay's respect has become a goal for many prospects hoping to make the most of tryout matches … No surprises or frills in his repertoire … Favors European uppercuts and brawling, but still capable of mixing in a crisp suplex or a submission hold.



Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

## 131 TO 142

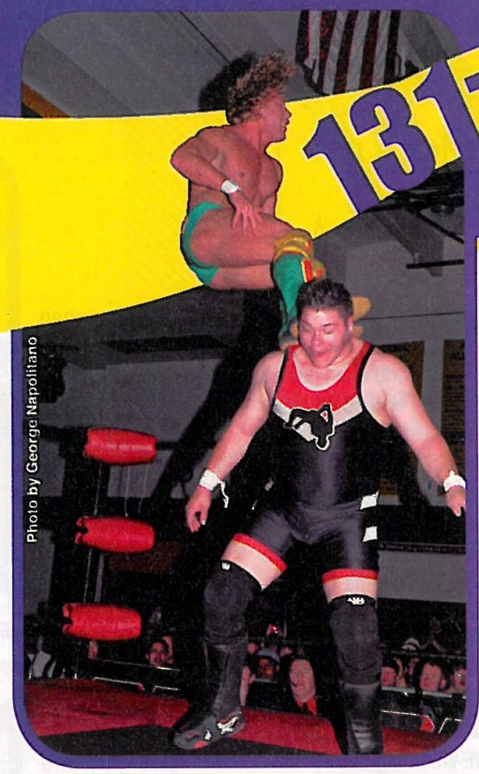


Photo by George Napolitano

**137 TOSHIAKI KAWADA** (6', 240, 28, NL) The legendary "Dangerous K" has re-emerged as a serious wrestler at the age of 46 following the closure of the HUSTLE entertainment-style promotion … Defeated Masato Tanaka to win the ZERO-1 heavyweight title last October and lost it to Kohei Sato this April … Made a big return to NOAH this year, the promotion founded by his greatest rival, Mitsuharu Misawa, and entered the inaugural Global League Tournament … Narrowly missed out on reaching the tournament final, falling one point shy … Hasn't appeared in NOAH since the tournament and his future is currently the subject of much speculation.

**138 NEGRO CASAS** (5'7", 170, 31, 108) The oldest son of Pepe Casas began a rivalry with Mistico that led to a hair-vs.-mask showdown at the Anniversary show … Got his head shaved after losing … Successfully defended the CMLL welterweight title against Mistico and Mascara Dorada … Won the CMLL middleweight title from Hijo del Fantasma, but lost it to Jushin Liger … Continued in the *Peste Negra* stable, teaming with Mr. Niebla and other Casas brothers … Teamed with Heavy Metal to challenge for the tag title, but came up short … Challenged for the trios title, but was also unsuccessful.

**139 RHINO** (6'1", 275, 16, 68) The TNA veteran hasn't had much to do since the Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff regime took power in the promotion … His on-again/off-again on-screen mentorship and feud with Jesse Neal has been off-again for months, and with the formation of Ink Inc., appears to be over … Rhino has posted a sporadic record in recent months, and The Gore hasn't been finishing off nearly as many opponents as it used to … Nevertheless, remains a feared brawler … Continues to work independent shows in addition to his TNA commitments, recently assisting fledgling promotion Maxim Pro Wrestling.

**140 KENSUKE SASAKI** (5'11", 254, 24, 54) The much-traveled powerhouse and husband of Akira Hokuto remains an active force … Has been based in NOAH since 2008, but also runs his own small promotion called Kensuke Office, built around his protégé Katsuhiko Nakajima and several other of his trainees … Has had a much quieter 2010 than 2009, the year where he became the first man to ever hold the heavyweight titles of Japan's "Big Three" … His match with Jun Akiyama during the Global Tag League in April was considered one of the best NOAH matches of the year … Possess an arsenal of painful power moves, his two main finishers being the lariat and Northern Light bomb.

**141 JUSTIN GABRIEL** (6'1", 215, 13, NL) The South African second-generation wrestler was a big fish in a small pond in his native country and has advanced his career steadily since signing with WWE two years ago … Known as Justin Angel during his championship-winning stint in FCW … Reigned atop WWE's developmental territory for nearly six months before participating in the *WWE NXT* experiment … He finished in third place during the *NXT* competition.

**142 KENNY OMEGA** (6', 200, 10, 318) Omega has become a solid draw on the U.S. and Canadian independent circuits since receiving his release from a WWE developmental deal several years ago … Also competes in Japan on occasion, and made his debut in New Japan within the past year, teaming with Ibushi to defeat Gedo and Jado by DQ in his first match … Briefly won the Pro Wrestling Guerilla championship, but soon dropped it to Davey Richards … Has evolved from a heel to a fan favorite in PWG …. Looked good despite losing to Austin Aries in an ROH title match.

# PWI 500

## 143 MASATO TANAKA (5'11", 209, 17, 144)

The former ECW World champion is the star of Japan's ZERO-1 promotion … Has spent more time in New Japan over the past year than in ZERO-1, joining up with the CHAOS faction and embroiling himself in a lengthy feud with NJPW upstart Hirooki Goto … Has brought his own brand of hardcore to the New Japan ring, one of his victories over Goto coming in a hardcore match … Was also ZERO-1 heavyweight champion for three months last year before dropping the gold to the iconic Toshiaki Kawada … His Sliding D finisher, a sliding elbowsmash, has knocked out many opponents.

## 144 PAUL LONDON (5'10", 205, 10, 162)

The Former WWE World tag team championship co-holder (with Brian Kendrick) has been dividing his focus between tag team and singles competition on the independent circuit … Lately seems to be gravitating toward tagging … Formed a championship duo with El Generico in Pro Wrestling Guerrilla … Briefly reformed his once-prolific tag team with Kendrick in Dragon Gate USA … The duo lost a loser-leaves-the-company match to Jimmy Jacobs and Jack Evans at the Mercury Rising pay-per-view … Subsequently began a feud with Teddy Hart … Still dazzles with his 450-degree splash.

## 145 MARCO CORLEONE (6'6", 265, 11, 124)

The former Mark Jindrak is feared throughout Mexico … Teamed with Latin Lover and started a feud with *la Hermandad Extrema* … Challenged for the AAA tag title, but were defeated by *la Hermandad* … Helped Joaquin Roldan battle The Foreign Legion … Frequently teamed with La Parka and Cibernetico … With Jack Evans challenged *la Hermandad* for the tag title, but again failed to get the belts … Made it to the finals of the *Rey de Reyes* tournament in March before being eliminated by Chessman … Released by AAA 10 days later and signed with the *Perros del Mal* promotion in April.

## 146 TETSUYA NAITO (5'11", 225, 4, 161)

One-half of New Japan's NO LIMIT tag team with Yujiro, the pair won IWGP tag gold in their first match back from Mexico at the Tokyo Dome in January … Startled New Japan fans in March when he pinned company leader Hiroshi Tanahashi in Round Two of the New Japan Cup tournament … The flashier and more animated of NO LIMIT, he has shown the potential to go far beyond the tag ranks … Still very athletic despite bulking up to become a heavyweight, and often shows it by finishing matches with a spectacular Stardust press (corkscrew moonsault).




## 147 RAY GONZALEZ (6', 230, 20, 155)

The 14-time World Wrestling Council champ remains a top contender for the title … Involved in a series of feuds that have at least temporarily placed his focus elsewhere … Currently battling Black Pain … Fenix Landing finishing move has long since become predictable, yet "Mr. Ray-Tings" still wins the majority of his matches with it … Whether wrestling as a fan favorite or a heel, never shy about bending the rules to win … May be beyond his prime at 38 years old, but still a major force on the Puerto Rico wrestling scene.

## 148 LA PARKA (6'1", 220, 28, 109)

Fan favorite is considered one of the top draws in AAA … Helped Joaquin Roldan defeat The Foreign Legion in a winner-takes-all cage match … Resumed his feud with Silver King and the emerging stable *Los Wagnermaniacos* … Aligned himself with Roldan once again to battle the returning Foreign Legion … Frequently teamed with Cibernetico and Mesias … Started a rivalry with L.A. Park, a feud that no one thought could take place due to Park's legal issues with AAA … The feud led to a name-vs.-name match … Unable to use his elbowdrop neckbreaker finisher, was beaten with the illegal Martinete piledriver.

# 143 TO 154

## 149 JOE LIDER (5'9", 179, 17, 351)

The founder of the 187 Code faction is a very dangerous competitor … Continued in *la Hermandad Extrema* team with Nicho el Millonario … Started a feud with Latin Lover and Marco Corleone, which lasted a couple of months … Created the first-ever 187 tournament to determine new contenders for the tag belts, and defeated winners Extreme Tiger and Crazy Boy … Lost the title to Takeshi Morishima and Taiji Ishimori after a year-and-a-half reign … Walked out of Konnan's Foreign Legion stable to regain the belts from the Japanese team.

## 150 JIMMY JACOBS (5'7", 169, 11, 50)

Jacobs' decision to leave Ring of Honor after a highly successful stint in the promotion has meant at least a short-term readjustment of his in-ring style and career goals … Suffered a clean loss to unheralded Aaron Williams in Insanity Pro Wrestling before getting back on track … Has been heavily involved in the EVOLVE promotion, coming out on top so far in a feud with former WWE wunderkind Kenny Doane … End Time guillotine choke remains one of the most feared submission finishers on the independent scene … Despite his lack of size, has shown the ability to fare well against much bigger opponents.

## 151 KAZ HAYASHI (5'8", 183, 17, 119)

The veteran and former star of WCW's cruiserweight division has reigned unmatched as leader of All Japan's junior division since taking the title from Naomichi Marufuji in February '09 … At last count, he had defended the gold 12 times, which is a significant number in an era when junior title matches are limited to key shows … Has beaten every member of All Japan's junior division and several outside stars during his reign … Finishes matches with the Power Plant, paying homage to the old WCW training site.

## 152 NAOYA OGAWA (6'4", 250, 13, NL)

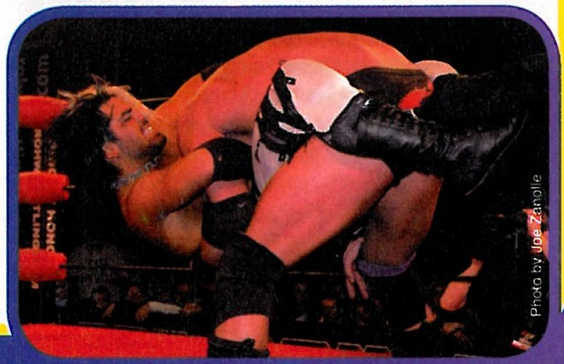
One of the most controversial pro wrestlers ever in Japan, the former Olympic judo silver medalist nowadays leads Antonio Inoki's IGF promotion … Headlines every IGF show without fail, his biggest victory of late coming over fellow tough man Yoshihiro Takayama last November in Tokyo … After a recent post-match skirmish where he and Atsushi Sawada faced the outside tandem of Minoru Suzuki and Naomichi Marufuji, it seems he and Marufuji may have some unfinished business … Although famous for his STO (Space Tornado Ogawa) finisher, the former NWA champion has favored classic submission techniques to finish matches.

## 153 MIKAL JUDAS (6'7", 272, 11, 498)

NWA Anarchy's resident "retribution seeker" still hears cheers despite sadistic actions in recent months … Brutally assaulted Shadow Jackson, then defeated him to become a two-time NWA Anarchy heavyweight champion … Turned back the popular Jackson in a rematch … Survived a challenge from Don Matthews, thanks to interference by Skirra Corvus and Orion Bishop … Appears to be settling in for long, dominant title reign … *El Crucifejo* power bomb and chokeslam are lethal finishers … Blinding red mist also in his arsenal, as Jackson can attest … Southern indy regular formerly known as Mikal Adryan … Managed by the demented Mr. Cid Istic, Esquire.

## 154 TRENT BERETTA (6'1", 230, 6, 451)

Cocky but talented Long Islander teams with Caylen Croft as The Dudebusters … Duo made WWE debut on ECW brand in December, then moved on to Smackdown … Has also competed regularly on *Superstars* … Inexperience has hurt in losses to Goldust and Yoshi Tatsu and Cryme Tyme … Two-time FCW Florida tag team champion … Feuded extensively with second-generation teams the Rotundos (Bo and Duke) and The Fortunate Sons (Joe Hennig and Brett DiBiase) … Larger half of The Dudebusters, projected as a singles star … Prefers high-impact offense, but can mat wrestle effectively … Springboard tornado DDT is an eye-opening finisher … A product of the New York Wrestling Connection.



# PWI 500

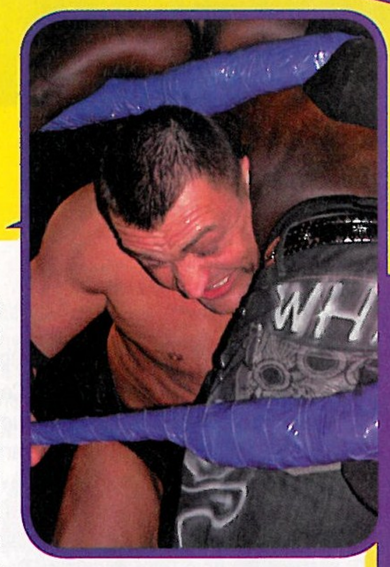


Photo by Steve Beyer

**155 VLADIMIR KOZLOV** (6'6", 302, 5, 53) The Ukrainian with the extensive training in a variety of fighting styles has been floundering in WWE for the past year-plus … Has gone from a fearsome figure to a comedic mid-carder … Could have tumbled even further down the rankings if not for several recent victories … Became an unlikely fan favorite in WWE after a falling-out with William Regal … Has also engaged in a feud with Santino Marella, with the main purpose usually being to elicit laughs rather than to re-establish himself as a secondary championship contender … Outside his WWE involvement, the former U.S.A. Open heavyweight sambo champion, who has also won a USKBA championship in the grappling division, has dabbled in MMA training while continuing to pursue roles in action and comedy movies.

**156 KATSUHIKO NAKAJIMA** (5'9", 209, 6, 226) Kensuke Sasaki's greatest protégé, Nakajima debuted at the young age of 15 in January 2004 … The focal point of Sasaki's Kensuke Office promotion, Nakajima also tours with his mentor in Pro Wrestling NOAH … Earmarked as a future leader in the Japanese wrestling scene since his debut, the talented kicker has already won numerous championships, including NOAH's and All Japan's top junior titles … Has missed several months this year with injury, which hindered his progress … Hopes to soon shed the image of a junior heavyweight who tries hard but ultimately fails against bigger men.

**157 SILVER KING** (5'9", 216, 25, 307) Continued his feud with La Parka over the summer … Formed the *Wagnermaniacos* with his brother, Dr. Wagner Jr. … As part of the stable, he frequently teamed with Electroshock and Ultimo Gladiador … Aided Wagner in some of his AAA title defenses … Started a feud with Pimpinela after the group rejected the exotic competitor … Turned on Wagner, and helped eject him from the group … Remained in the Wagner-free stable, where he helped Electroshock battle his brother … Won the AAA tag title with Ultimo Gladiador at TripleMania 28 … Uses a Dragon Screw as his signature move.

**158 CIMA** (5'8", 183, 13, 114) Despite having not held Dragon Gate's Open the Dream Gate title since 2008, CIMA remains the most recognizable figure in the promotion … In February, he and Gamma won the Open the Twin Gate Unified tag title from Naruki Doi and Masato Yoshino, making CIMA the first man to win all of Dragon Gate's titles … Added yet another title reign to his growing list in May when he, Gamma, and Genki Horiguchi captured the Open the Triangle Gate six-man tag title … Has also been instrumental in the early success of the Dragon Gate USA promotion, with his natural charisma and ability making him a favorite.

**159 CAYLEN CROFT** (5'11", 220, 9, NL) Trent Beretta's tag team partner in The Dudebusters … Indy veteran formerly known as Chris Pavone and Chris Cage took long road to WWE … Equally adept at singles and tag team wrestling, though is perhaps better suited to the latter, given his size … A two-time FCW Florida tag team champion, with Beretta and Curt Hawkins … Dudebusters defeated Tyler Hilton and Bobby Shields in ECW debut … Now members of the Smackdown brand, still looking for first big WWE win … Employs technical style with several effective aerial maneuvers in his repertoire … Fireman's carry double-knee gutbuster is his preferred finisher … Former OVW heavyweight champion.

**160 PAUL BURCHILL** (6'5", 247, 8, 123) The British wrestler's career is in limbo since WWE pulled the plug on ECW and, shortly thereafter, wished Burchill well in his future endeavors … With TNA's roster already overloaded, his next step seems to be focusing on indie card bookings … When executed to perfection, his Dangerous Buster combination superplex and powerslam is an effective finisher, but it's also an injury risk … Prior to his release from WWE, Burchill decisively lost his feud with Gregory "Hurricane" Helms, getting humiliated on a regular basis and twice coming up on the wrong side of matches in which the Brit's contract was at stake against Helms' mask.

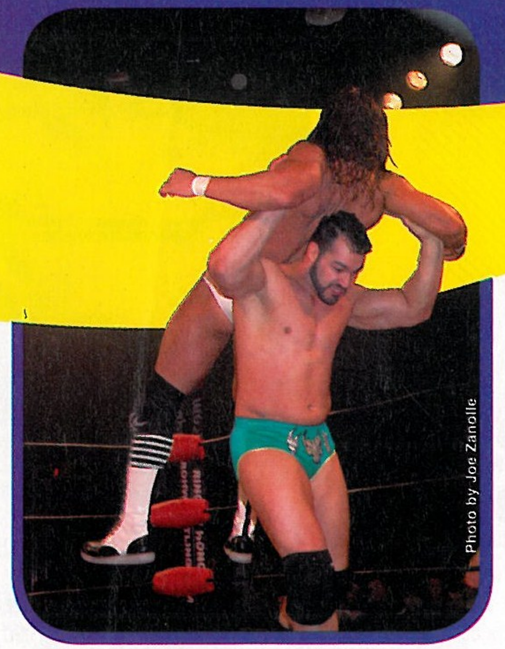


Photo by Joe Zanolle

# 151 TO 166

**161 CHUCK TAYLOR** (6'1", 200, 8, 186) One of the top performers on the independent circuit, Taylor overcame a staph infection to have a productive year and elevate his "*PWI* 500" rating by 26 spots from last year … Earlier this year, the Kentucky native became the first two-time winner of the King of Trios tournament … For much of the rating period, Taylor waged war with El Generico in both singles and tag team competition, with neither side decisively winning the feud … Also wrestles for the fledgling EVOLVE promotion, where he scored a major win over Claudio Castagnoli … Taylor's combination of aerial agility and mat-based maneuvers has made him effective against both cruiserweights and heavyweights.

**162 PERRO AGUAYO JR.** (5'6", 170, 15, 136) The son of the legendary Perro Aguayo intends on leaving his own mark on the sport … Runs his own promotion, *Los Perros del Mal* … Main-evented the majority of the shows, frequently teaming with fellow members Halloween and Damiàn 666 … Had short feuds with L.A. Park and Marco Corleone … Entered into a feud with El Hijo del Santo … Issued several challenges for a mask-vs.-hair match, thus far unanswered … Announced that he made a business deal with AAA and that his promotion would have some presence in the company.

**163 SCOTT STEINER** (6'1", 274, 24, 71) The former WCW World champion's four-year stint in TNA lasted longer than most would ever have predicted, but the writing was on the wall by the time Hulk Hogan and Eric Bischoff arrived … Prior to leaving, the scowl-wearing "Booty Daddy" split the pay-per-view matches he wrestled against Bobby Lashley, winning at Turning Point but losing at Final Resolution … Since his departure, Steiner became a headlining heel in Carlos Colon's World Wrestling Council … The younger Steiner brother immediately targeted Ray Gonzalez and subsequently won his first Universal heavyweight championship … At age 48, is still one of the most powerful wrestlers in the business.

**164 BRETT DiBIASE** (6'1", 215, 2, 309) Plans for the third-generation grappler to join older brother Ted DiBiase Jr. on the main WWE roster were set back when the younger DiBiase sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament and underwent surgery in May … Prior to the injury, the second-year pro showed considerable potential in Florida Championship Wrestling … Competing as one-half of The Fortunate Sons, DiBiase captured the tag team title with another third-generation pro, Joe Hennig … Although the 22-year-old DiBiase has not completely filled out his frame as of yet, he moves smoothly in the ring … Combination Million-Dollar Dream sleeperhold into a Russian legsweep is an effective finisher.

**165 BRENT ALBRIGHT** (6', 233, 12, 89) A year ago, the former WWE talent was one of the hottest commodities outside WWE and TNA … Took a half-step backward over the past year, performing solidly but not spectacularly, in sporadic appearances for Ring of Honor … His 49-day reign as NWA champion ended at the hands of Adam Pearce in September 2008 … The 31-year-old Oklahoma native still possesses one of the most extensive variety of suplexes in the business and is an effective striker, wearing down opponents to set up his punishing Fujiwara-style armbar.

**166 EXTREME TIGER** (5'3", 150, 12, NL) Rey Misterio Sr. trainee debuted in 1998 at 17 years old … Had a topsy-turvy 2009-2010 … Won the AAA cruiserweight title at TripleMania 27 in a bout that included Alex Koslov, Alan Stone, and Crazy Boy … Lost the title in first defense, against Koslov, but the title was declared vacant after the Russian was fired … Reclaimed the belt in a five-way ladder match that included Evans, Rocky Romero, Teddy Hart, and Koslov … Lost the belt to Evans at TM 28 in a four-way, with Nosawa and Christopher Daniels rounding out the field … Primary finisher is the 450-splash.

# PWI 500


Photo by George Napolitano

**167 TAJIRI** (5'8", 187, 20, NL) The former ECW and WWE star continues to make a nuisance of himself back in his native Japan … The recent demise of HUSTLE, where he had been since returning to Japan, has led to TAJIRI forming his own independent group called SMASH, featuring himself, his protégé KUSHIDA, and special guests such as Tommy Dreamer and Nick Dinsmore … Spent much of late-2009 and early-2010 in New Japan, striking up feuds with Hiroshi Tanahashi and Yuji Nagata … His New Japan stint came to an unceremonious end in February when he was made to tap out by Nagata in less than five minutes … Master of the buzzsaw kick.

**168 VANCE ARCHER** (6'8", 270, 10, 195) Former long-time TNA performer (as Lance Hoyt) looking to make his mark in WWE … Debuted in ECW in November after short stint in FCW … Clean-shaven, short-haired look gave him a completely new appearance … Dominated local competitors for weeks before beginning feud with Shelton Benjamin … Traded wins with Benjamin, finally losing a no-DQ match … Made WrestleMania debut in 26-man pre-show battle royal … Briefly returned to FCW after ECW was discontinued … Formed tag team with Curt Hawkins … Duo dubbed The Gate Crashers attacked MVP and Christian on consecutive episodes of *Smackdown* … Brazen actions earned them full-time contracts from GM Teddy Long.

**169 SEAN WALTMAN** (6', 212, 17, 330) Even after all these years, Waltman still has a penchant for creating controversy … Still has an impressive array of kicks in his repertoire but rarely surprises opponents anymore by breaking out new, innovative moves … Returned to TNA for his third stint in the promotion and immediately rejoined former NWO cohorts Kevin Nash and Scott Hall in The Band … In the bizarre series of storyline twists and turns that followed, Hall and Waltman turned on Nash only for it to be revealed that it was a hoax to set up Eric Young … Later, after a bout with hepatitis forced him to miss Lockdown, Waltman found himself unceremoniously ousted from The Band with Young taking his place.

**170 SHAWN DAIVARI** (5'10", 223, 10, 85) A year ago, as Sheik Abdul Bashir in TNA, Daivari was one of the most hated heels in the promotion, earning himself a multi-year contract extension in the process … With the impending power shift in TNA, he had little to do and requested (and received) his release from the company…Joining Ring of Honor and reverting to his given name, Daivari is no less anti-American than he was in either WWE or TNA … As a member of Prince Nana's Embassy faction, he quickly earned the enmity of ROH fans … Daivari's aerial ability, submission prowess, and quick-snap variations of the DDT compensate for his lack of size.

**171 JOEY RYAN** (5'10", 210, 10, 175) Ryan's mustache, clothing, and hairstyle may be a throwback to the 1970s, but "Magnum" has a contemporary ring style that has made him a successful addition to Prince Nana's hated Embassy faction in Ring of Honor … Scored a controversial victory over Roderick Strong to solidify his status as a threat in ROH … As one of the co-founders of Pro Wrestling Guerrilla and the trainer of many up-and-coming talents, the 31-year-old has become an influential figure on the indy scene … Still appears from time to time as enhancement talent in WWE matches … Finishes foes with a wicked double-underhook facebuster or a well-executed superkick.

**172 CHRIS MASTERS** (6'4", 275, 8, 393) Over the course of the past year, Masters has become a fan favorite for the first time in his two WWE stints … No longer as bulky as he was earlier in his career, but his stock in trade is always going to be his raw power … Has modest technical ability but has worked to refine his old-school, big-man repertoire of bodyslams and bearhugs, which set up his Masterlock full-nelson finisher … Successful in lower-card matches against the likes of Chavo Guerrero Jr., but narrowly lost in several matches against the more highly regarded Dolph Ziggler.


Photo by Wayne McCarty

# PWI 500

## 173 TOMKO (6'6", 295, 8, 205)

Already a well-traveled veteran who has had several stints both in TNA and WWE, the physically imposing Tomko still seems best suited to the role of enforcer for a heel stable than as a contender for solo championships … Most recent return to TNA gave career a short-term jump start, but was unable to defeat AJ Styles, whereupon he soon got lost in the shuffle again … Has also been bested by Orlando Jordan and Rob Terry … Tomko's lack of speed is often his undoing, but once he has an opponent in his clutches, he can unleash his powerful array of punishing slams and backbreakers.

## 174 SAMI CALLIHAN (5'11", 200, 4, 194)

"The New Horror" continues to slash his way through the competition … Has competed all over the indy map, most notably in CZW … Came up short in bid to take the CZW heavyweight title away from his Switchblade Conspiracy partner Jon Moxley … Duo won a tournament to claim the vacant WXW tag team title in Germany … Captured the relaunched NWA Force-1 championship in a grueling 20-minute elimination match against Sabian, Ophidian, and Ryu Lee … Immediately threw the title in the trash, turned on the fans, and formed The New Regime … Lince Dorado has stepped up as his top contender … Beat Adam Cole in his debut for the EVOLVE promotion.

## 175 LATIN LOVER (6'1", 216, 18, NL)

The popular dancing wrestler remains the ladies' favorite … Returned to AAA and immediately formed a team with Marco Corleone … Feuded with *la Hermandad Extrema* stable, unsuccessfully challenging for the tag title … Helped Joaquin Roldan battle the Foreign Legion … Won the Golden Bracelet, which guaranteed him a title shot … Started feuding with Electroshock over the number-one contendership … Left the company before he could cash in his title shot, and his award was given to Ken Anderson … Attended a CMLL show as a fan and was assaulted by former friend Hector Garza … His finisher is a superkick.

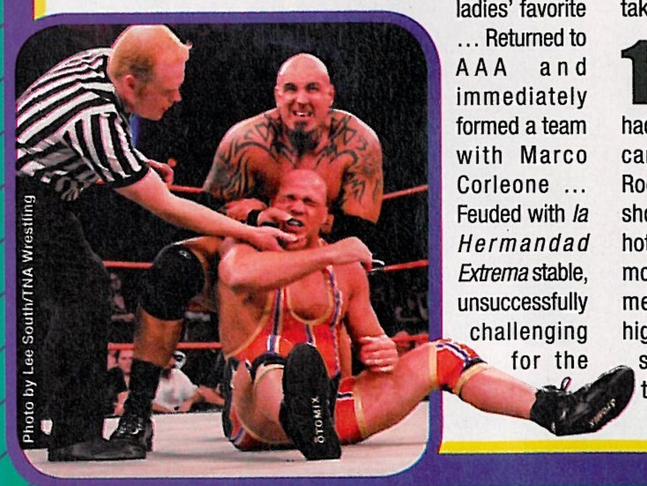


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

## 176 ALEX KOSLOV (5'9", 190, 7, 145)

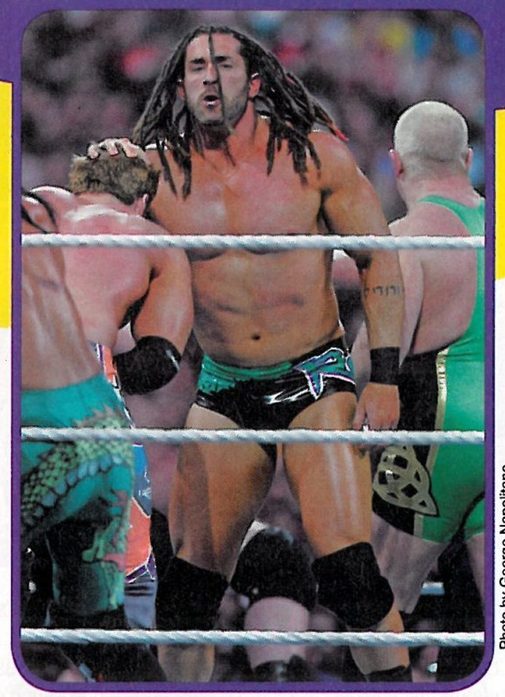
The Russian has become a hated AAA star … Lost the cruiserweight title to Extreme Tiger, causing a personal crisis … Attacked his friend Rocky Romero, ending the D-Generation Mex stable in the process … Lost a loser-leaves-town cage match, which involved several cruiserweights … Returned to the company and revealed he was part of the revived Foreign Legion … Frequently teamed with Chessman, Zorro, and Teddy Hart to battle the defenders of the company … Aligned himself with heel referee Hijo del Tirantes … Closes his matches with a springboard elbowdrop.

## 177 CHAVO GUERRERO JR. (5'9", 215, 16, 116)

Third-generation wrestler seems forever destined to be a comedic mid-card heel in WWE, relegated to being humiliated on a regular basis while living in the shadows of his more accomplished relatives … Took a step toward re-establishing himself as a serious performer by allying himself with Dolph Ziggler in a feud targeting Christian … Nevertheless, win-loss record in televised matches remains dismal … A proficient technician, Guerrero still tends to make fatal mistakes that cost him matches.

## 178 SONJAY DUTT (5'8", 185, 10, 149)

The talented but undersized Dutt has had an up-and-down year since his five-year stint in TNA came to an end last spring … Fared well against Roderick Strong in Pro Wrestling Guerrilla, but came up short against El Generico … In Ring of Honor, waged a hot feud with Delirious, with Delirious gaining the early momentum and Dutt returning the favor in subsequent meetings … One of the sport's top aerialists but his high-risk style sometimes costs him matches against skilled counter-wrestlers … At age 28, is just entering the prime of his career.


Photo by George Napolitano

# 173 TO 184

## 179 FELINO (5'8", 189, 28, NL)

Called by many the fastest luchador in Mexico, but continues competing in mid-card matches … Convinced by his older brother, Negro Casas, to join the *Peste Negra* stable … Teamed with the remaining Casas brothers and Mr. Niebla in several tag team matches … Challenged for the CMLL tag title, but failed to win the belts … Entered into a heated feud with La Sombra in the spring … Their feud also dragged Volador Jr. and Mistico into a four-way mask match … Lost the four-way when he was defeated by La Sombra, and had to unmask.

## 180 TYLER REKS (6'3", 249, 2, 156)

The former FCW heavyweight champion and tag team championship co-holder graduated to the main WWE roster, but may require additional seasoning … A knee injury suffered last year may have set him back … Foundered in ECW prior to its demise and was all but invisible on Smackdown, being largely confined to untelevised matches … Returned to FCW this spring, although WWE remains high on his long-term potential … Although the 31-year-old got a relatively late start in the wrestling business, his leaping ability makes him capable of upsetting more experienced rivals … Biggest WWE wins to date have come at the expense of the now-released Paul Burchill.

## 181 JUN AKIYAMA (6'2", 240, 18, 42)

Japanese star announced his retirement near the end of the rating period for the 2010 "*PWI* 500" after losing in the finals of the annual Global League Tournament … However, all indications are that the 40-year-old veteran isn't going anywhere just yet … Akiyama was frustrated after being forced to vacate the GHC heavyweight championship last spring due to injury, and has struggled with back injuries … When healthy, his Exploder suplex and Blue Thunder Driver finishers are among the most effective in the business … Assuming he stays for the long haul, Akiyama remains one of Pro Wrestling NOAH's most bankable commodities.

## 182 MARTIN STONE (6', 240, 7, 135)

Known as "The Guv'Nor" and "The Enforcer," the London native is one of the top grapplers in the United Kingdom … Captured the Frontier Wrestling Alliance championship in February, beating Andy Simmonz in a tournament final to claim that title … Became the Pro Wrestling 101 heavyweight champion in March by beating 11 challengers in a Championship Rush match, last beating Martin Kirby … Has a vicious lariat that would make Desmond Wolfe cringe … Beats opponents with his London Bridge rope-hung spike DDT.

## 183 PAC (5'9", 172, 6, 137)

One of Britain's top exports in recent years, "The Man That Gravity Forgot" has made a name for himself all over the world with spectacular displays of aerial ability … Has wrestled everywhere from Portugal to Italy, but his most notable appearances of late have come in Ring of Honor and Dragon Gate … Is a member of the WORLD-1 faction in Dragon Gate, where he teams with the likes of Naruki Doi and BxB Hulk … Has toured regularly in Japan this year in between appearances elsewhere around the globe … His 360-shooting star press must be seen to be believed.

## 184 KIYOSHI (6', 210, 11, 151)

Keiji Muto's pupil has shed his face paint, though he retains some of his teacher's mannerisms … Has found himself back home in All Japan at times after having an insignificant role in TNA so far … Appeared in All Japan's prestigious Champion Carnival tournament in March, winning two matches and losing two, his wins coming over Suwama and former WWE wrestler René Duprée … TNA future is in doubt after very few appearances lately … Finishing move is the Lightning Flash, a reverse thrown Death Valley driver.

# PWI 500


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

## 185 MANABU NAKANISHI

(6'1", 265, 18, 69) The local powerhouse of New Japan remains an imposing presence but has yet to replicate his first-ever IWGP heavyweight title reign from last year … Had a shot at Shinsuke Nakamura's IWGP title at Sumo Hall this February, coming up short in an exciting match … Has recently spent time mentoring young wrestlers in the roles of both their tag partner or opponent … Still very popular with fans and healthy at the age of 43 and looks to push himself back into the main-event picture soon … Likes to finish matches with the Hercules Cutter, a torture rack turned into a neckbreaker.

## 186 PETEY WILLIAMS

(5'7", 179, 8, 102) The compact Canadian with the spectacular Canadian Destroyer finishing move had an uneven year after his five-year stay in TNA came to an end in February 2009 … Toured Japan and had several good matches in All Japan, but only came away with one win in its Junior League tournament … In Ring of Honor, he put up tough challenges to champion Austin Aries, but came up a bit short … Likewise, he failed to win the ROH TV championship from Eddie Edwards … On the flip side, Williams cleanly defeated Rhett Titus in ROH and various foes in Border City Wrestling as well as Pro Wrestling Xtreme over the past year.

## 187 SHINJIRO OTANI

(5'11", 236, 18, 204) The President of ZERO-1, Otani both runs the company behind the scenes and serves as one of its in-ring leaders … Returned to his original home, New Japan, last November to unsuccessfully challenge Shinsuke Nakamura for the IWGP heavyweight title in a much-lauded match … Formed a regular team with Akebono and won ZERO-1's Furinkazan tag tournament in December '09, beating Masato Tanaka and Masaaki Mochizuki in the final … Has been less busy in 2010 due to ZERO-1's reduced schedule.

## 188 ATLANTIS

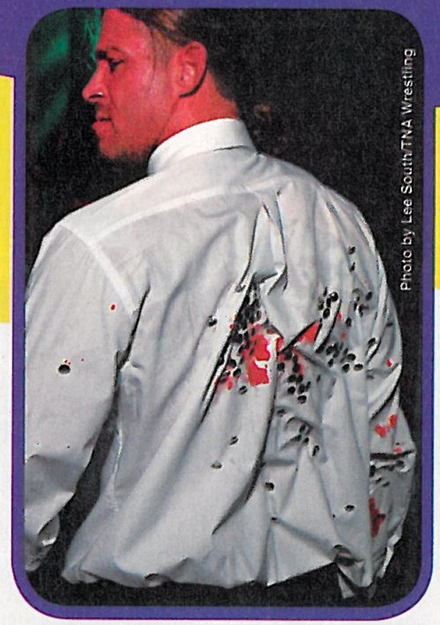
(5'8", 180, 27, 183) The veteran still has some gas left in his tank … Works as a rudo, despite the positive reaction from the fans … Remained in the *Guerreros de la Atlantida* stable with Ultimo Guerrero and Rey Bucanero … Challenged for the tag title on two separate occasions, but failed to win the belts from CMLL champs La Sombra and Volador Jr. … Challenged for the National light heavyweight title, but was defeated by Volador Jr. … Competed on Ultimo Dragon's Dragonmania show, where he teamed with Rey Bucanero and Chuck Palumbo … Won the *Parejas Increibles* tournament with Mascara Dorada.

## 189 CONSEQUENCES CREED

(5'10", 205, 5, 93) It's unfortunate that the lasting image that many will have of Creed's stint in TNA was of him vomiting in the ring after getting hit flush by a move from Amazing Red … Prior to his release, he was an entertaining mid-carder … Over the past year, established himself as a tag team title contender with partner Jay Lethal and as a solo contender for the X division championship … Subsequently traveled to Japan and competed in the Super J tag tournament with Kota Ibushi as his partner, losing in the first round … Returned to North America and made the independent rounds for NWA Anarchy and other promotions.

## 190 NECRO BUTCHER

(6'2", 230, 12, 117) Arguably still the top extreme-rules and hardcore stylist on the North American independent scene, Butcher spent much of the past year in an unlikely (but successful) fan favorite role … Recently re-affirmed his rulebreaking ways by joining Prince Nana's Embassy stable in Ring of Honor to feud with Rasche Brown … In a Necro Butcher match, the only surprises are in which objects he may find and turn into weapons … Despite return to heel status, retains a devoted cult following … Hardly the most muscular or naturally athletic performer in the business, yet possesses surprising power and has mastered the chokeslam.


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

# 181 TO 196

## 191 DRAKE BREWER

(6'5", 297, 6, 133) A former TNA trainee, Brewer is an unknown to most American wrestling fans, although that is subject to change … After nearly three years in All Japan, where he competed as Joe Doering, the big man recently signed a developmental deal with WWE … Exited All Japan with a high-profile match in January, challenging Satoshi Kojima for the Triple Crown but falling to a lariat before saying farewell … Made his debut for Florida Championship Wrestling in February, losing to Johnny Prime … Changed his name to Drake Brewer and defeated Prime in a rematch one month later … Finishes matches with a traditional Death Valley driver.

## 192 GIANT BERNARD

(6'6", 331, 13, 154) Formerly known as A-Train, his career in WWE seems a lifetime ago and he continues to be a top foreign star for New Japan … Forms the stronger half of Bad Intentions with Karl Anderson … Has shed his heel affiliation after leaving the CHAOS faction with Anderson, but has always been cheered by NJPW fans … Expanded his horizons in May by debuting for CMLL in Mexico, using the ring name Gigante Bernard … Still lacking the definitive singles title reign that could take him to the next level in Japan.

## 193 TOMMY DREAMER

(6'2", 265, 21, 104) Dreamer's brief recapture of the ECW championship last year was one of wrestling's feel-good stories of 2009, but it has been a rocky road for him since losing the title at Night of Champions last summer … Many suspected Dreamer's retirement match in WWE would mark the transition to a behind-the-scenes role in the promotion, but he was instead released … Returned to the independent scene … Challenged for titles in CHIKARA and Maximum Pro Wrestling but thus far has been unable to capture them … Downed former ECW champion Shane Douglas for the UCW title … Still wears his heart on his sleeve and competes through sheer guts and desire.

## 194 STEVIE RICHARDS

(6'1", 215, 18, 237) Richards' comedic TNA stint as Dr. Stevie appears to have run its course … Appeared only sporadically on *TNA Impact* and just once in the ring since the start of 2010 … Over the balance of the ratings period, had his most successful campaign in several years, taking part in a prominent storyline with Mick Foley and Abyss … Remains one of the most charismatic promo men in the business … Boasts a fine superkick and power bomb that set up his double-underhook DDT and General Anesthesia finishers.

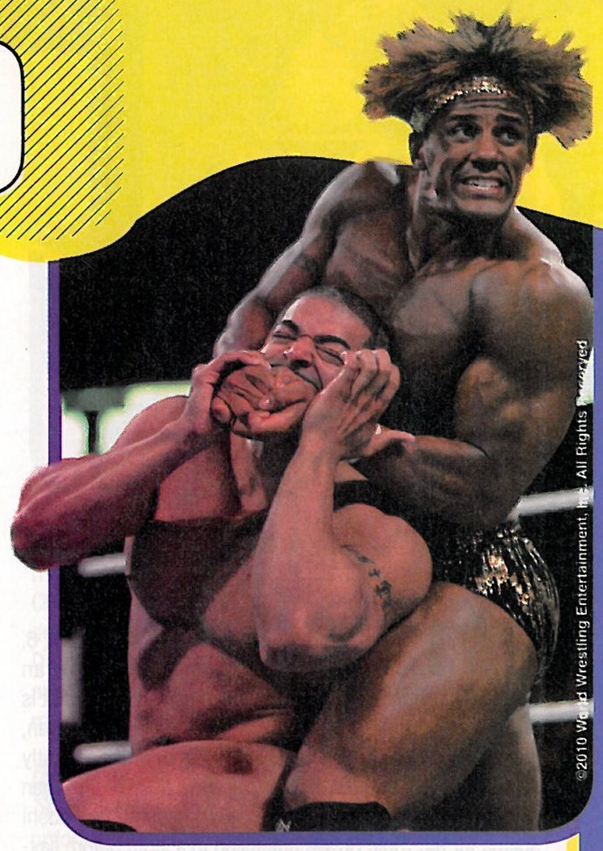
## 195 JOE E. LEGEND

(6'4", 252, 18, 140) Canadian veteran tours annually with World Wrestling Professionals in South Africa … Also acts as the promotion's talent agent … Former WWP heavyweight champion now teaming with Murat … Duo are the top threat to WWP tag team champions The Muladas (Skull and Tornado) … Has also been pursuing Sixways Smackdown English heavyweight champion James Mason in England … Sports long, glittering robes during ring entrances … Uses trusted cutter and lifting reverse STO finishers … Best known for his Sex and Violence tag team with a young Edge (then known as Sexton Hardcastle) in the early-1990s … Competed briefly in WWE as Just Joe.

## 196 BISON SMITH

(6'3", 280, 12, 115) Having been based mainly in Japan's NOAH for the past five years, Smith now has other obligations, after joining Ring of Honor last January … While in Japan, he and Keith Walker won the GHC tag title in an upset over Takeshi Rikio and Mohammed Yone in April … In ROH, he continued to star as a monster figure in Prince Nana's Embassy group … ROH appearances have been rare lately due to his regular touring schedule with NOAH … Remains the top foreigner in NOAH and has been for much of his stint, but has yet to win the GHC heavyweight belt … Main finisher is the Bisontennial, a belly-to-back inverted slam.

# PWI 500




**197 DARREN YOUNG** (6'2", 255, 8, 418) "The South Beach Party Boy" graduated from FCW to *NXT*, competing on Season One as the protégé of C.M. Punk … Personality clash between Young and Punk hampered his development, but Young eventually earned Punk's respect … Previously competed as "Bonecrusher" Fred Sampson and Frederick of Hollywood on the Northeast indy circuit … Was an early elimination on *NXT*, despite big wins over Daniel Bryan and Luke Gallows … Uses a full-nelson flapjack as his finisher.

**198 NICHO EL MILLONARIO** (5'10", 220, 19, 258) The former WCW and WWE star (as Psicosis) is one-half of the most dreaded tag team in AAA, with Joe Lider as *La Hermandad Extrema*… Started a feud with Latin Lover and Marco Corleone … Defeated winners Extreme Tiger and Crazy Boy, the winners of a tournament to determine their most worthy contender … Record 551-day reign was finally ended by Takeshi Morishima and Taiji Ishimori … Walked out of Konnan's Foreign Legion stable to regain the belts from the Japanese team … Finisher is a devastating top-rope legdrop.

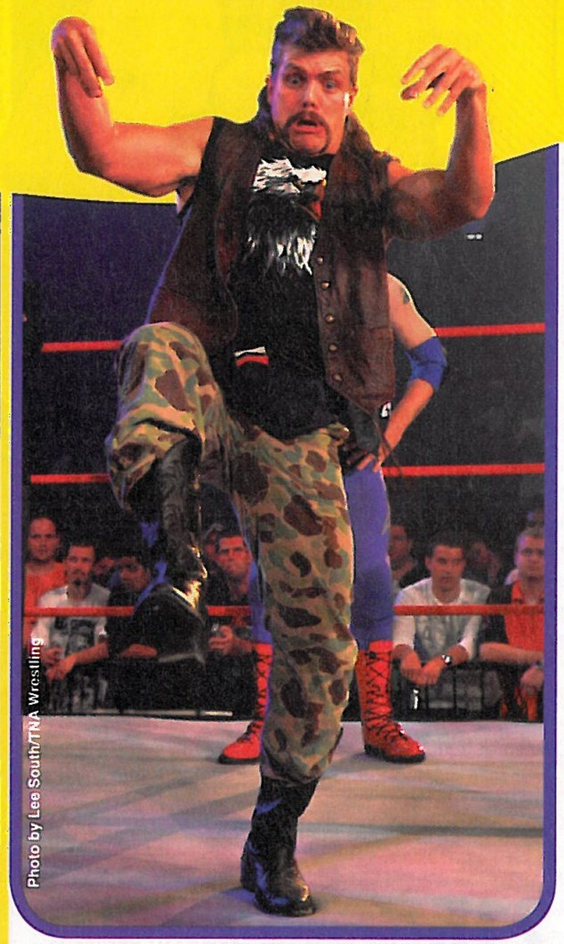
**199 BLUE PANTHER** (5'6", 220, 32, 99) Widely viewed as Mexico's toughest veteran … Last year's mask loss to Villano V has had no psychological effect, as he continues to wrestle as always … Abandoned *los Laguneros* stable to resume his career as a singles competitor … Started a short feud with Averno, unsuccessfully challenging him for the NWA middleweight title … Frequently teamed with Mistico and Shocker … Entered the *Gran Alternativa* tournament, guiding rookie Rey Cometa, but was eliminated by Hector Garza and Polvora … Still seeking revenge against Villano V.

**200 JASON HADES** (5'9", 185, 7, 243) Former IWA:Mid-South light heavyweight champion is widely considered to be one of the best-kept secrets in the Midwest … Has competed in CHIKARA, CZW, and several other regional promotions … Best known for his unique finishing move, The Killswitch, which can be described as a butterfly front flip lungblower, similar to Petey Williams Canadian Destroyer … Though his finisher and aerial attacks garner the most press, Hades is a skilled tactician and a master of arm submissions, counters, and takedowns.

**201 ALEX RILEY** (6'2", 240, 3, NL) Born to privilege, takes arrogance to a new level … Former Boston College football standout … Wears a high school letterman's jacket with an "R" for his name … Makes a lot of enemies with his arrogant persona, but is highly skilled in the ring … Defeated *NXT* Season One rookies Justin Gabriel and Wade Barrett in a triple-threat match to win the FCW Florida heavyweight title … Hired Barrett immediately afterward for protection … Will compete on *NXT* Season Two.

**202 KORY CHAVIS** (6'3", 225, 10, 428) "The Ruthless Villain" teams with Jon Davis as the Dark City Fight Club … Duo has put together an impressive record in Ring of Honor, but inability to defeat The Briscoe Brothers or Young Bucks has stalled any championship hopes … DCFC has feuded with The New Heavenly Bodies (Vito DeNucci and Chris Nelson) in Florida … Teams have recently traded the NWA Florida tag team title … Formerly competed as Rainman, most notably in NWA Wildside.

## 197 TO 208




**203 ARIK CANNON** (5'7", 210, 9, 331) Long-time Midwest indy regular is still going strong … "The Anarchist" became a two-time AAW Heritage champion by defeating Colt Cabana … Turned back Louis Lyndon in his first defense … Varied, European-style offense keeps opponents off-guard … Anarchist Hammer (inverted Death Valley driver) remains a feared finisher … Former IWA: Mid-South heavyweight champion and winner of CHIKARA's Young Lions Cup IV tournament.

**204 CODY DEANER** (6', 220, 10, 168) The end of Deaner's on-screen relationship with ODB and his subsequent release from TNA have left his career at a crossroads … Claim to Knockouts title was denied by TNA … ODB pinned him to clear up the mess … Has probably taken his trailer park persona as far as it can go and he may want to depart from a comedic character in favor of something closer to the Cody Steele identity that made him a top prospect on the independent circuit prior to his stint in TNA.

**205 JASON BLADE** (5'11", 192, 10, 250) Popular New England competitor continues to refine his craft … Just 26 years old, despite being a 10-year pro … Dogged pursuit of the Top Rope Promotions championship remains his primary focus … Defeated Isys Ephex, Vinnie Marseglia, and Matt Taven in a four-way Gold Rush ladder match to earn two TRP title opportunities any time in 2010 … Attempted to cash in, but victory over J. Freddie was nullified due to "referee confusion" and the championship was ruled vacant … Dropped Northeast Wrestling title to Paul London.

**206 TAKESHI MORISHIMA** (6'3", 320, 12, 100) The behemoth of Pro Wrestling NOAH formed an all-star team with Kensuke Sasaki, but their reign as GHC tag team champions was brief, lasting just one defense … Headed to AAA in Mexico with Taiji Ishimori this year and the two captured the AAA tag title, holding the belts for two months … Biggest win this year was a revenge victory over the legendary Toshiaki Kawada after "Dangerous K" had previously pinned him.

**207 DAVID OTUNGA** (6', 240, 1, NL) Real-life backstory, reality-show fame, and relationship with Jennifer Hudson played a part in WWE giving him arguably the heaviest push among all *NXT* contestants … Has guest hosted *Raw* and battled both with and against John Cena … Second-place *NXT* finisher possesses three important traits to succeed on his own merits in the WWE: a gift for gab, self-confidence, and the type of physique that has always been a plus in Vince McMahon's promotion.

**208 MR. NIEBLA** (5'9", 187, 20, 263) Remained the co-leader of the *Peste Negra* stable … Challenged several time for the tag title, but failed to win the belts from Volador Jr. and La Sombra … Also unsuccessfully challenged for the trios titles … Made a brief alliance with the heel-turned Mistico to battle the tag champions again … Uses a painful submission maneuver called *El Nudo*, in which he ties his opponent's limbs in a knot and rolls him over in a Boston crab-like manner.

# PWI 500

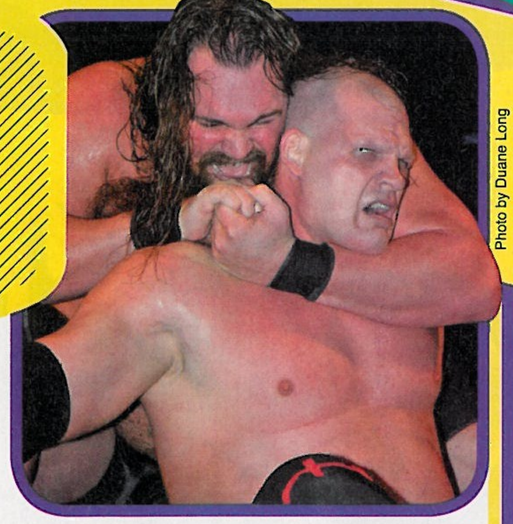


Photo by Duane Long

**209 KAVAL** (5'8", 174, 12, 198) The former Lo-Ki and Senshi has dabbled along the fringes of WWE since signing with the company … Participation as a "rookie" in the second season of *NXT* may springboard him into a more visible role … Undersized but undeniably skilled … Owns one of the most extensive repertoires in the sport and a host of notable non-WWE titles already to his credit.

**210 JACK EVANS** (5'8", 165, 10, 167) The cruiserweight contortionist has at times been a controversial figure within the wrestling business, stemming in part from his full-speed-ahead style in the ring … Was reportedly involved in a backstage fight involving Konnan and Juventud Guerrera … Tagged with fellow controversial cruiserweight Teddy Hart … Has become a popular fan favorite in Mexico's AAA over the past year … His 630-degree corkscrew senton finishing move remains one of the most breathtaking in the sport.

**211 JON DAVIS** (6', 220, 5, 432) As one-half of the Dark City Fight Club along with Kory Chavis, has found success in the Ring of Honor and NWA Pro Wrestling Fusion tag scenes … The duo put up a tough challenge to then-tag team champions The Briscoe Brothers in ROH and later captured the Fusion tag titles from The Heavenly Bodies … Has shown potential as a singles competitor but his focus will likely remain on his team with Chavis.

**212 TORU YANO** (6'1", 245, 8, 299) The former member of the Toukon Club came out on the losing side of several matches with former tag partner Togi Makabe, but scored a big win last June … Yano also fared well in the most recent G1 Climax tour, notching an upset victory over Giant Bernard and reaching the quarterfinals … Remains rooted in the New Japan mid-card as a singles wrestler … Reached the finals of the G1 Tag League, with Shinsuke Nakamura.

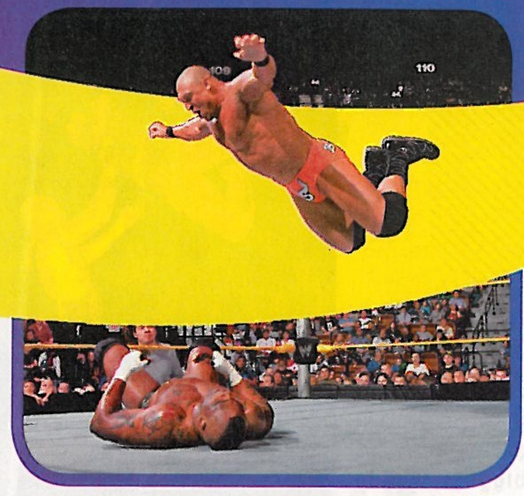
**213 OSAMU NISHIMURA** (6'1", 232, 19, 267) One of the few wrestlers who can entertain modern wrestling fans with a purely old school catch-as-catch-can style, Nishimura continued to tour with All Japan early this year … Announced in March that he would be taking a break from pro wrestling in an attempt to enter politics … The future of "Mr. Muga" is unclear, but if his political career doesn't take off, expect him back in the squared circle soon.

**214 MIKE KNOX** (6'6", 293, 12, 87) Roughneck heel spent much of the past year spinning his wheels in WWE prior to being released shortly after WrestleMania 26 … Started out well, showing a sadistic streak in attacking Finlay, but it was all downhill from there … Best accomplishment over the past year was placing third in the dark match battle royal at WrestleMania 26 … Otherwise, spent much of the year losing to other mid-card talent on *Smackdown* and *WWE Superstars*.

**215 RYUSUKE TAGUCHI** (5'11", 201, 8, NL) The "Funky Weapon" is one-half of Apollo 55 with Prince Devitt in New Japan, and the two have become one of Japan's more popular junior tag teams … Has yet to fulfill his early promise, which tapped him to be a legitimate successor to the likes of Jushin Liger and Koji Kanemoto … Challenged Naomichi Marufuji for the IWGP junior heavyweight title in May, but couldn't come away with the championship.

**216 RASCHE BROWN** (6'3", 260, 5, 375) One-half of the longest-reigning NWA tag team champions in history with Keith Walker … The Skullcrushers defeated Los Luchas (Phoenix Star and Zokre) for the title back in February 2008, but defenses are sporadic … Branching out into singles competition in Ring of Honor … Has dismantled preliminary talent on several episodes of *ROH On HDNet*, but still looking for win over a member of the established roster … Has been heavily scouted by Prince Nana.

# 209 To 224



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**217 PRINCE DEVITT** (5'11", 205, 10, NL) Technically proficient Irishman formed a successful tag team with Ryusuke Taguchi in New Japan Pro Wrestling … Forced to vacate the IWGP junior heavyweight tag team championship for failing to defend the belt within the required 30-day interval … Won his block of 2010 Best of Super Juniors tournament within the ratings period for the "*PWI* 500" and won in the finals shortly after the ratings period ended.

**218 SKIP SHEFFIELD** (6'2", 270, 6, NL) *NXT* competitor proudly calls himself the "Corn-fed Meathead" … Among the first eliminated from the competition … Muscular Texan may finally have broken through after a prolonged apprenticeship in the WWE developmental system (he competed in both Ohio Valley Wrestling and Florida Championship Wrestling) … Average technician, has to rely on his size and strength win.

**219 ULTIMO GLADIADOR** (6', 210, 13, NL) Masked luchador has often been relegated to a supporting role in *Los Maniacos* … Stepped to the forefront by teaming with Silver King to win the AAA tag team championship … Former member of the IWRG roster, has also taken a prominent role in the current rivalry between AAA and IWRG stars … Has begun a feud with Mascara Ano 2000 Jr., winning their first head-to-head clash by way of a countout.

**220 ICARUS** (5'10", 175, 8, 264) Graduate of the Chikara Wrestle Factory teams with El Gran Akuma and Chuck Taylor as Team F.I.S.T., which won the 2009 CHIKARA King of Trios tournament … Signature moves are the shiranui, the Blu-Ray Death Valley driver, and the slingshot senton … He and Taylor lost their hair to Fire Ant and Solider Ant in May 2009, marking the third time Icarus has had his head shaved as the result of a match stipulation.

**221 SHAWN SPEARS** (6'3", 225, 8, 200) Ontario native has found success in Puerto Rico, where he was named Newcomer of the Year in a World Wrestling Council fan poll … Held the WWC tag team title with Idol Stevens for three months … Also competed in Mexico for the EAW promotion and had a handful of matches in ROH … Wrestled D'Angelo Dinero in a dark match for TNA last year … Trained by Eric Young … Briefly competed on the WWE ECW brand under the name Gavin Spears.

**222 MIKE QUACKENBUSH** (6', 191, 19, 247) "The Master Of 1,000 Holds" is the founder of CHIKARA Pro Wrestling and a prominent player in the Dragon Gate USA promotion … Has held the NWA junior heavyweight title for more than three years … Participated in the tournament to crown the first Open the Dragon Gate champion, but was eliminated in the first round … Prolific writer has authored six books … Has toured Mexico and Germany several times and has trained more than 50 wrestlers … Finishers include the CHIKARA Special, Quackendriver power bomb, and Quackendriver II piledriver.

**223 JESSE NEAL** (6', 240, 2, NL) U.S. Navy veteran has had a few false starts since the Hogan/Bischoff regime took power in TNA … Has found a niche teaming in Ink Inc. with Shannon Moore … On-again, off-again mentorship by Team 3-D (his real-life trainers) appears to be off again after Brother Ray turned on him for the second time in a year … Still relatively inexperienced, Neal is working to expand his repertoire in the ring.

**224 TEDDY HART** (6'1", 195, 12, 197) The third-generation member of the world-famous Hart family is now 30 years old and is still better known for the controversies he creates wherever he goes than for his immense talent in the ring … Suspended indefinitely by Mexico's AAA in the midst of becoming a major part of the Foreign Legion faction … Still appears in assorted U.S. independents and made his return to Ring of Honor late last year after a five-year absence.

# PWI 500

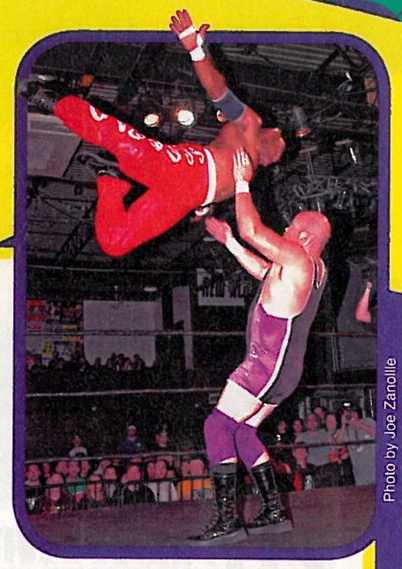


Photo by Joe Zanolle

## 225 2 COLD SCORPIO

(5'11", 225, 25, 212) The 44-year-old continued his late-career revival by winning the NWA National title from Phil Shatter in Booker T's Pro Wrestling Alliance promotion … Was also regularly featured in Dragon Gate USA … Still in demand in Europe, especially Germany … Originator of the 450-degree Scorpio Splash still performs his signature move, although younger wrestlers have since adapted and improved upon it.

## 226 GRAN AKUMA

(5'10", 192, 8, 253) Mainstay of the F.I.S.T. faction of CHIKARA was thwarted in his attempt to become the first to win the King of Trios tournament for a second time … Despite its rulebreaking tendencies, the faction, which also includes Icarus and Chuck Taylor, remains one of the most skilled combos on the independent circuit … Undersized protégé of Mike Quackenbush, can execute his Falcon Arrow sit-out suplex against much larger opponents.

## 227 YUKO MIYAMOTO

(5'9", 180, 7, NL) One of the young stars of the Japanese independent scene, has worked his way up from opening match rookies in WMF to death match superstars in Big Japan Pro Wrestling … Entered BJW in 2007 and braved the hellish domain of death matches, which feature barbed wire, thumbtacks, light tubes, explosions, and more … Held the BJW Death Match heavyweight title from December '08 to May '10, a long and spectacular reign.

## 228 TOMMASO CIAMPA

(5'10", 210, 5, NL) Originally trained by Harley Race, Killer Kowalski, and Al Snow … Has done well for himself on the independent circuit since being released from a WWE developmental contract several years ago … Former holder of the Millennium Wrestling Federation TV championship … Has thus far come up short in his bid to regain the belt from current champ Brian Fury … Had a remarkable 2009 Super 8 performance, despite falling to Nick Logan in the final round.

## 229 KOHEI SATO

(6'4", 220, 10, NL) The former mixed martial artist has been in ZERO-1 his entire career … Has spent many years climbing to the top of the promotion alongside Ryouji Sai … Scored his biggest win to date in April when he ended the dominant reign of legend Toshiaki Kawada to bring home the ZERO-1 heavyweight title … Only a lack of opportunities outside of ZERO-1 prevents him from having more success.

## 230 KAZUCHIKA OKADA

(6'3", 212, 6, NL) New Japan's top young lion is considered to be one of the company's most talented prospects in years … Was sent to TNA this year as part of the traditional overseas learning expedition for young Japanese wrestlers … Debuted in February for TNA using the shortened name Okada and losing to Alex Shelley … Like most young Japanese wrestlers, is now trying to create his own style and character before returning home.

## 231 SCOTT LOST

(5'8", 185, 10, 222) Southern California indy regular ran off a notable winning streak in late-2009, defeating El Generico, Colt Cabana, Human Tornado, and tag team partner Joey Ryan … Fell to Kenny Omega in quarterfinals of Pro Wrestling Guerilla's Battle of Los Angeles tournament … Made ROH debut at WrestleReunion 4, teaming with Scorpio Sky in loss to El Generico and Colt Cabana … Teamed with Ryan in loss to Keiji Muto and KAI the following day … Five-time former PWG tag team champion.

## 232 HECTOR GARZA

(5'11", 210, 18, 148) Whether he competes as a tecnico or a rudo, "Querubin Of Lucha" knows how to capture the crowd's attention … Challenged Ultimo Guerrero for the CMLL heavyweight title several times, but failed to win the belt … Trios team of Garza, La Mascara, and Hijo del Fantasma lost the belts to Taichi, Okumura, and Hiroshi Tanahashi, after Garza attacked his teammates … Won the Gran Alternativa tournament with rookie Polvora … With Mr. Augila, co-leads the *Los Super Libres* faction.

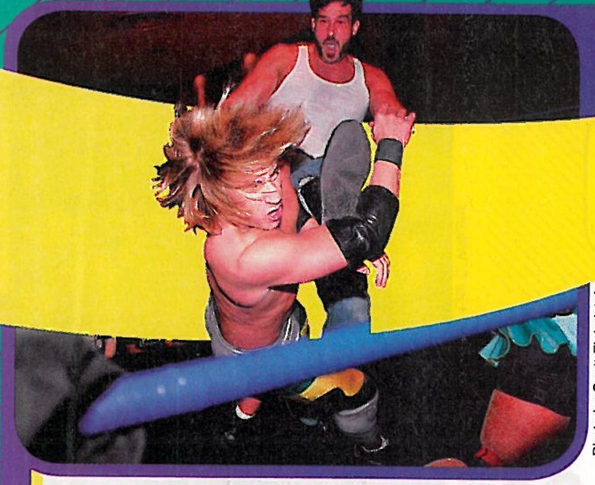


Photo by Scott Finkelstein

## 233 TIGER MASK IV

(5'8", 192, 15, 103) The masked hero of New Japan has become frustrated of late … Lost his IWGP junior heavyweight title to NOAH's Naomichi Marufuji at the Tokyo Dome in January … Also failed to defeat Marufuji in a rematch and began showing unusual signs of bad sportsmanship, refusing to accept defeat … Suffered an injury during NJPW's Best of the Super Junior tournament, but only after showing more strange behavior.

## 234 MASAAKI MOCHIZUKI

(5'9", 187, 16, 282) The Dragon Gate kicker remains exceptionally talented and athletic at the age of 40 … Almost won the Open the Dream Gate title for the first time since 2005 this May, losing narrowly to YAMATO … Has held some gold this year as one-third of the Open the Triangle Gate champions with Akebono and Don Fujii … Considered an old-timer of the ring now, but still wrestles with great pace and ability.

## 235 BRODIE LEE

(6'5", 280, 7, 218) The "Big Rig" had an up-and-down year on the independent circuit … Saw his Roughnecks faction of CHIKARA dissolve after Eddie Kingston decided to concentrate on solo work and Lee had a falling out with Grizzly Redwood … Also teamed with Gran Akuma in EVOLVE … Not a polished technician, but knows how to use his size and leverage to set up his high-impact Brodie Bomb sit-out power bomb finishing move.

## 236 SUPER CRAZY

(5'8", 200, 22, 220) The 36-year-old lucha libre veteran has become something of a journeyman in recent years since his WWE stint ended … Rarely stays in one place long enough to challenge for the top spot in a promotion … Has wrestled for IWA in Puerto Rico, All Japan, HUSTLE, Pro Wrestling Alliance, Xtreme Latin American Wrestling, and Pro Wrestling Guerilla … No longer as "crazy" as he used to be, but can still dazzle with his chain moonsaults and Crazy Bomb finishing move.

## 237 BILLY KEN KID

(5'7", 185, 8, NL) Masked high-flyer has been one of the most popular stars of Japan's Osaka Pro for years … Boasts a hybrid style that incorporates elements of puroresu, lucha libre, and North American-influenced wrestling … Captured his fourth Osaka Pro singles championship by surviving a war with Dick Togo … Won the prestigious Tenno-Zen tournament in December, which put him back into contention after Togo had ended his third Osaka title reign … Dropkick is a thing of beauty … 450-degree splash rarely fails to put away the competition.

## 238 PERCY WATSON

(6'3", 245, 1, NL) The 29-year-old former NFL football player has been a fast-riser in the WWE system since making his FCW debut last year under his real name, Nick McNeil … Teaming with Darren Young as The South Beach Boys … Found quick success on the FCW tag team scene … Big and strong but still a bit raw in the ring … Relatively untested in singles competition.

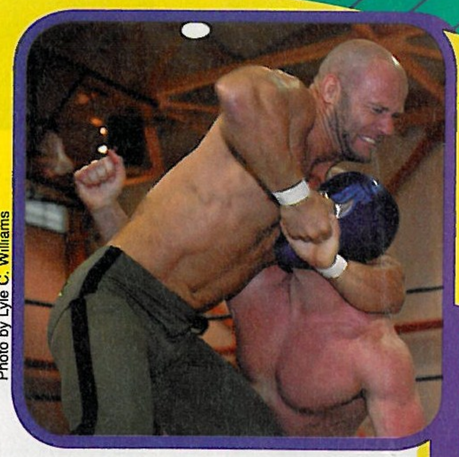
## 239 LINCE DORADO

(5'7", 170, 3, 249) Masked Puerto Rican has developed a high-risk, high-impact, hit-and-run style to compensate for the size and strength he gives up to nearly all his opponents … To his credit, has not backed off one bit in the ring despite a pair of scary in-ring accidents in CHIKARA that left him hospitalized and, in one case, could just as easily have left him paralyzed … Turned heel earlier this year and began a feud with former tag team partner Equinox.

## 240 MASCARA DORADO

(5'7", 170, 4, NL) "Golden Mask" is the reigning CMLL super lightweight champion, one-third of the Mexican National trios champions, and one-third of the CMLL trios champions … Teamed with Valienete in the IWGP Super J tag team tournament in March and was extremely well-received by the Japanese fans and media … Previously competed as Metalik … Adopted the Mascara Dorado name to become a full-sized version of popular mini Mascarita Dorada, which is the opposite of the norm, where a mini adopts a popular star's persona …At 21, has a bright future if he can remain healthy.

# PWI 500


Photo by Lyle C. Williams

**241 T.J. CANNON** (5'8", 185, 4, NL) The "Immaculate One" is one-half of The Best Around with Bruce Maxwell … Duo is among the top young tag teams on the independent scene … Held the CZW tag team title for a record 392 days before finally losing it to Eddie Kingston and Drake Younger (both former CZW champions) … Mark-out Moment finisher (shooting star double-stomp) is as visually stunning as it is effective … London, Ontario, native was trained by Rob Noxious and Jason Havok.

**242 DRAGON KID** (5'4", 150, 13, NL) The diminutive Japanese star has become an underground sensation in the U.S., thanks to his appearances with Dragon Gate USA and Ring of Honor … Challenged Dragon Gate USA champion BxB Hulk for the DGUSA championship at the Fearless pay-per-view … Aerial artistry and fearlessness is reminiscent of a young Rey Mysterio Jr., though Dragon Kid has been competing for more than a decade … Death-defying Bermuda Triangle dive maybe be the most foolhardy—and thrilling—move in wrestling today … Was trained by Ultimo Dragon.

**243 ZORRO** (5'9", 201, 17, 143) The "Prophet Of Lucha Libre" is now a dangerous and demented competitor … After spending months with the Foregin Legion, he helped Joaquin Roldan defeat the stable in a winner-takes-all cage match … Claimed he was under the influence of his cursed mask, and immediately returned to battle as a rudo … Rejoined the Foreign Legion … Feuded with Cibernetico for a few months … Formed a team with Vampiro … Assaults opponents with a kendo stick.

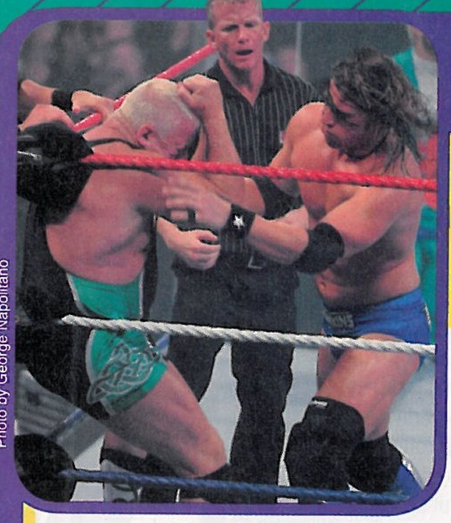
**244 RUCKUS** (5'8", 235, 11, 203) The Baltimore native marries street-smart sensibilities with jaw-dropping lucha libre-inspired attacks … Won the Maryland Championship Wrestling heavyweight title in February 2009 by beating Christian York in a steel cage … Dropped the title to Kent Brink … Has also held the MCW cruiserweight and tag team title, as well as the Shane Shamrock Memorial Cup (2006) … Uses a modified Gory lock into a reverse STO … Gangsta Splash 450-splash is particularly effective—and impressive—due to his bulk.

**245 DRAKE YOUNGER** (5'9", 210, 7, 178) "The Psycho Shooter" suffered a setback when he lost his CZW heavyweight championship to B-Boy in January … As of press time, continues to hold the CZW tag title with Eddie Kingston … Younger recently branched out and made his debut for the EVOLVE promotion … Has defeated reigning CZW champion Jon Moxley … May be best known for his willingness to participate in violent gimmick matches, but he's also a capable technician.

**246 SHOCKER** (5'9", 190, 18, 283) The "1,000-Percent Handsome" one remains a high-impact player within CMLL … Continued his feud with Dos Caras Jr. and the Japanese stable No Limit until Caras left the company … Appeared in several main-event tag team matches alongside Mistico and Blue Panther … Formed an alliance with the newest foreign addition of the promotion, Strongman … Feuded with the *Guerreros de la Atlantida* stable.

**247 RAVEN** (6'2", 245, 22, NL) Just when it appeared that it was time to say nevermore to Raven being a figure on the national wrestling scene, the 45-year-old resurfaced in TNA before returning to the independent scene … At this point, his appeal is more about his character's eternally unpredictable behavior and cryptically spellbinding promos rather than his abilities in the ring … Defeated Sean Waltman (wrestling under his X-Pac persona) during American Wrestling Rampage's spring tour.

**248 OLIVER JOHN** (5'10", 235, 11, NL) "Old School" Oliver is making a name for himself throughout the NWA … Appeared to have won the NWA title in June 2009 when he beat The Blue Demon, but it turned out he beat an impostor Demon (Derek Sanders) he had cleverly set up … Trained by Paul Demarco … Has also competed for WWE, ROH, ZERO-1, and HUSTLE … Intense competitor is a suplex master … Two-time former APW Universal champion.


Photo by George Napolitano

## 241 TO 256

**249 B-BOY** (5'11", 191, 11, 206) "The New Age Punisher" fulfilled a longtime dream by beating Drake Younger to win the Combat Zone Wrestling heavyweight title in January … Based in Philadelphia, B-Boy also competes for Dragon Gate USA, Jersey All-Pro, and Pro Wrestling Guerilla … Won CZW's Best of the Best tournament in 2003 … Hard-hitting cruiserweight resembles Homicide in style and attitude … Fearless high-flyer is always willing to put his own body on the line to inflict punishment on his opponent.

**250 KOTA IBUSHI** (5'11", 190, 6, NL) The darling of the Japanese independent scene, Ibushi is one of the most talented high-flyers to emerge in years … Has competed regularly in New Japan this year and accepted an invite into the prestigious Best of the Super Junior tournament … Has also headed to the U.S. several times for big independent shows … Nickname "Independent Genius" is very appropriate.

**251 EL HIJO DEL SANTO** (5'6", 180, 28, 228) Not as prominent as he once was, but the "Son Of The Saint" can still get the job done … Returned to AAA for a one-match deal and won the 10-man winner-takes-all cage match, giving Joaquin Roldan full control of the company … Appeared in a few shows for the Perros del Mal promotion … Feuded with Perro Aguayo Jr … Uses the camel clutch as his finishing move.

**252 EDDIE KINGSTON** (5'11", 245, 7, 257) Former Combat Zone Wrestling heavyweight champion is known for his crushing spinning backfist (the "Backfist To The Future") and a painful assortment of chops and Yakuza kicks … Currently holds the CZW tag title with Drake Younger … Challenged Dan Maff for the Jersey All Pro heavyweight title in January, but was unable to take the strap … Has also competed in ROH and IWA-Mid-South … Employs rugged, no-nonsense style mixed with high-impact puroresu-style moves.

**253 N8 MATTSON** (6', 210, 14, NL) Veteran from Michigan has emerged as a top star in Pro Wrestling Ohio … Teams with Benjamin Boone as The Sons of Michigan … Issued an open challenge against any Ohioan, stating he was a better athlete because he came from Michigan; Alex Shelley and Chris Sabin would probably agree … Lost to Al Snow, an Ohio native … Held the PWO TV title for four months … Also appeared in ROH … Pet moves include the Big Blue Buster, Codebreaker, and figure-four leglock.

**254 ROCKY ROMERO** (5'7", 175, 13, 141) Former member of The Havana Pitbulls (with Ricky Reyes) has been working in Japan and Mexico … Had competed as Black Tiger in Japan until losing a mask-vs.-mask match to Tiger Mask IV last summer … Two-time ROH tag team champion and three-time CMLL super lightweight champion … Style is based around stiff kicks and various armbars and locks, making him dangerous both at a distance and up close … Currently competing in AAA.

**255 CURT HAWKINS** (6'1", 221, 6, 190) Long Island native floundered after split with Zack Ryder, but has been rejuvenated since returning to Smackdown with new partner Vance Archer … Competed in Florida Championship Wrestling for most of the past year … Founding member of The Dudebusters with Caylen Croft and Trent Beretta … The Dudebusters won the FCW tag title and defended it using "The Freebird Rule," where any two members could defend the belts … Now using a flying elbow as his finisher.

**256 CODY HAWK** (6'2", 210, 12, NL) Four-time former Heartland Wrestling Association champion is still a major player on the Midwest scene … Held the Xtreme Valley Wrestling and PT Wrestling heavyweight titles … Runs Ego Pro Wrestling and serves as the head trainer for that promotion's school … Frequently competes for WWE when it comes through Ohio … Main finishers are a musclebuster variation, in which he drops his opponent onto his knees, and a flipping slam called The Rubik's Cube.

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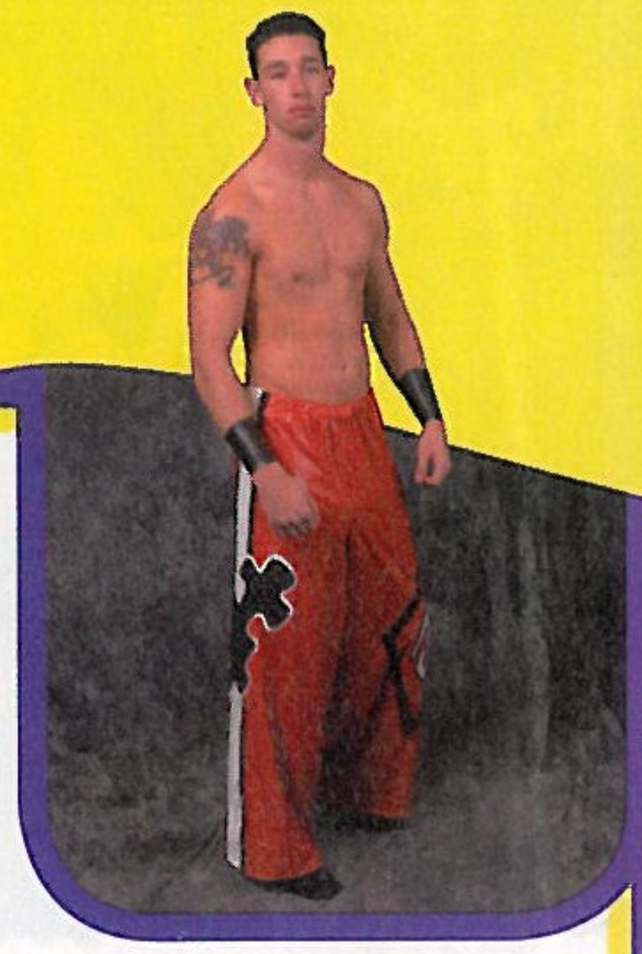


Photo by Joe Zanolle

**257 MASAHIRO CHONO** (6'1", 240, 26, NL) The New Japan legend shocked everyone in January by leaving the promotion to explore new options … Those options so far have been two appearances at a special Samurai Festival, where he portrayed Nobunaga Oda in the ring … Retains good relations with his old home and appears on a NJPW TV show … The future of the forever popular "Black Charisma" is unclear after so few appearances in 2010.

**258 B.J.** (5'10", 230, 5, 245) Scored a big win over Steve Corino for the WWC Universal title last year, but was stripped of the championship a short time later … Faced Noriega in a bout in September to determine a unified Universal champion, but came out on the losing end … Regained the title in January with a win over Noriega, but lost the belt two months later to Ray Gonzalez … Also a popular recording artist in his native Puerto Rico.

**259 JIGSAW** (6'1", 173, 7, 314) Former ROH competitor currently competes in CHIKARA and Dragon Gate USA … Formed a tag team with Mike Quackenbush … Teamed with Quackenbush and The Colony in a win over Icarus, Gran Akuma, Amasis, and Hallowicked at DGUSA's Enter the Dragon PPV … Also teamed with Quackenbush to beat The Young Bucks … Favors the Jig 'n' Tonic cradle back-to-belly piledriver and the brainbuster … Former CZW junior heavyweight champion and CHIKARA Young Lions Cup winner.

**260 REY BUCANERO** (5'10", 210, 19, 227) The "Corsair Of Love" is part of the *Guerreros de la Atlantida* stable with Ultimo Guerrero and Atlantis … Had two failed title challenges of CMLL tag team champions La Sombra and Volador Jr. … Teamed with Chuck Palumbo, Arcangel de la Muerte, and Black Navarri in losing effort against Tatsumi Fujinami, Ultimo Dragon, Brazo de Plata, and the legendary Mil Mascaras at Ultimo Dragon's Dragonmania V show in Arena Mexico in May.

**261 KOJI KANEMOTO** (5'11", 180, 20, NL) Along with Jushin "Thunder" Liger, "Aniki" is the strong veteran presence of New Japan's illustrious junior division … Still dangerous and difficult to beat due to his lethal mix of suplexes and submissions … Won the Super Junior tournament for an unprecedented third time in 2009 and this May captured the IWGP Junior tag team title for the fourth time, this time with former enemy El Samurai.

**262 JOHNNY DEVINE** (5'9", 201, 13, 251) Former TNA X division champion is keeping busy on the Canadian independent scene … Has been undefeated in the past year, scoring wins over Tyson Dux, Al Snow, Cody Deaner, and Colin Delaney … Also works as a wrestling analyst for The Fight Network … Has been inducted in both the Canadian Pro Wrestling Hall of Fame and the PWA (Canada) Hall of Fame … Former teammate of Team 3-D and member of Team Canada.

**263 BRUCE MAXWELL** (5'10", 202, 4, NL) One-half of The Best Around, with partner T.J. Cannon … Maxwell and Cannon held the CZW tag team title for more than a year until dropping the belts to Eddie Kingston and Drake Younger … Claims to hail from a wealthy family, but spurned the family business to follow his dreams in wrestling … Goes by the nickname "Picture Perfect" … Based in Pennsylvania, and has also competed in New Jersey, Maryland, Ohio, West Virginia, and Illinois.

**264 EL SENSACIONAL CARLITOS** (5'10", 182, 5, NL) The reigning World Wrestling Council Puerto Rico champion … Defeated Orlando Colon to win that championship in February … Won the WWC tag team title with partner Hiram Tua in April … Agile competitor often prefers brawling tactics, including knife-edge chops, punches, and kicks … Has incredible balance and frequently changes direction with a quick springboard off the second rope … Wrestled in the International Wrestling Association before jumping to WWC.

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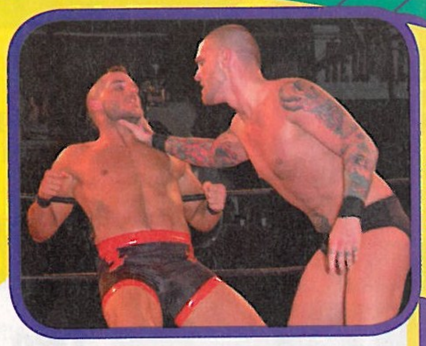


Photo by Joe Zanolle

**265 AKEBONO** (6'8", 500, 5, NL) A famous sumo wrestler, Akebono remains a media celebrity and an active pro wrestler five years after debuting in the squared circle … Is always on the move and in high demand, appearing in many promotions and winning several championships lately … Has been mentoring another ex-sumo wrestler in All Japan, Ryota Hama, and the two recently held the 55-year-old All-Asia tag title together.

**266 CHRISTOPHER GRAY** (5'10", 200, 7, 210) One-half of The British Lions, along with Tommy Taylor … Engaged in a ferocious feud with the team of Roderick Strong and Eric Stevens in Full Impact Pro … Defeated Strong and Stevens in a steel cage match to win the FIP tag belts … In singles competition, Gray has feuded with Craig Classic and NJPW's Kazuchika Okada … Former WWE developmental prospect once tried-out to play professional soccer with Manchester United.

**267 RYAN EAGLES** (6', 214, 8, NL) Is perhaps best known in the U.S. as the husband of SHIMMER champion Madison Eagles … Co-owns the PWA Australia promotion with his wife … Has won several championships in Australia, including the High Risk Pro Wrestling title and the PWA heavyweight and national titles … Cagey veteran is a master tactician, but usually prefers brawling to grappling … Won the 2009 King of the New School tournament, beating Gene Kelly in the tournament final.

**268 STERLING JAMES KEENAN** (6'1", 220, 10, 296) The Pittsburgh punk rocker has become a crowd favorite and a bona fide main-event talent … Held the 1 Pro Wrestling (United Kingdom) heavyweight title … Has also competed in Ring of Honor and WWE … Won the vacant Far North Wrestling title in a three-way TLC match against Mad Man Pondo and Scott Fowler … Defended that belt against Shiima Xion, Jimmy Vegas, and Bubba the Bulldog before dropping it to Josef Von Schmidt … Training for a bout against professional boxer Butterbean at press time.

**269 EL TERRIBLE** (6'1", 231, 12, NL) The feared renegade is one of the most aggressive competitors in CMLL … Formed a team with Texano Jr. … Feuded with Japanese team No Limit during the fall, culminating in a hair-vs.-hair tag match where he and Texano shaved the heads of Tetsuya Naito and Yujiro … The team, however, couldn't take the IWGP junior heavyweight tag title from No Limit … Aligned with Hector Garza to main-event several shows.

**270 ARES** (5'11", 196, 12, NL) Swiss competitor has wrestled in the U.S., Germany, South Africa, France, and Italy … Won the GSW (Germany) title twice … Competed in the WXW (Germany) 16 Carat Gold tournament, beating Matt Jackson and Claudio Castagnoli before falling to Chris Hero … Teamed with Castagnoli to win the CHIKARA *Campeonatos de Parejas* tag title … Won the King of Trios tournament, teaming with Castagnoli and Tursas … Finishers are a swinging fisherman suplex and a sit-out double-underhook power bomb.

**271 MICHAEL ELGIN** (5'10", 225, 6, 346) "The Canadian Crazy Horse" has toured western Canada and is making a mark in the American Midwest … Has taken Charlie Haas as his mentor … Showed impressive strength when he hoisted up Jae Rauken, Stupified, and Sabian simultaneously for a three-man Samoan drop in C4 (Ottawa) … Other signature moves are the splash mountain bomb and a running hip attack … Showed his toughness in an incredibly stiff bout with All Japan's Manabu Soya.

**272 SEBASTIAN SUAVE** (5'11", 208, 4, NL) Impressive Canadian was trained by Rob Fuego at Squared Circle Training … Completed a tour with Maximum Pro Wrestling and competed against Johnny Devine and Highlander Robbie McAllister … Teamed with Andrew Davis to win the Great Canadian Wrestling tag team title … Finished behind Tyson Dux and Jake O'Reilly in a fan poll for best Ontario wrestler … Planning on moving to Florida to train for FCW in the near future … Signature moves are the frog splash and the Savior Stretch, which forces opponents to bow to him.

## 265 TO 280



Photo by Joe Zanolle

**273 YAMATO** (5'7", 180, 4, NL) Has risen to the top of Japan's Dragon Gate this year after ending the 15-month Open the Dream Gate title reign of Naruki Doi at Tokyo's Sumo Hall … Has remained champion since March with impressive defenses against Susumi Yokosuka, Shingo Takagi, and Masaaki Mochizuki … Also appears for the offshoot Dragon Gate USA promotion … A versatile wrestler who has perfected several submissions to add to his high-impact Galleria (Michinoku Driver II-B) finisher.

**274 TEXANO JR.** (6'1", 220, 9, 268) Defeated Hijo del Fantasma, Black Warrior, and La Sombra en route to a finals loss to Ultimo Guerrero in the CMLL Universal Champions tournament … Ruthlessly defended the NWA light heavyweight title against all comers, including Shocker and Toscano … Formed a team with El Terrible … Feud with No Limit ended with Texano teaming with Terrible to win a hair-vs.-hair match against Tetsuya Naito and Yujiro … Often finishes opponents with a Texas backbreaker.

**275 TOMMY TAYLOR** (5'11", 205, 8, 216) Taylor is an Englishman in Florida … Teams with Christopher Gray as The British Lions … Avid student of the British mat wrestling style, Taylor has patterned himself after Fit Finlay, The Dynamite Kid, and Billy Robinson … Was under a WWE developmental contract in 2007, but was released in 2008 … He and Gray currently hold the Full Impact Pro tag team title.

**276 HALLOWICKED** (6'1", 195, 8, 265) Masked man from Sleepy Hollow has competed in Ring of Honor, CHIKARA, Full Impact Pro, CZA, and IWA:Mid-South … Trained by Mike Quackenbush, Reckless Youth, and Chris Hero … Describes his style as "Japanese junior heavyweight with a lucha libre influence" … Currently competing as a tecnico alongside Quackenbush … Was upset in the first round of the 2010 King of Trios tournament as he, Quackenbush, and Frightmare lost to Team Big Japan.

**277 VAMPIRO** (6'2", 249, 26, 213) The "Canadian Vampire" is one of the most famous foreign wrestlers in Mexico … Spent months in AAA, acting as the commissioner … Feuded with General Manager Konnan, usually overruling any unfair matches in favor of the Foreign Legion … Was a key player in Joaquin Roldan's victory over Konnan and the Legion … Turned heel again and joined the revived Foreign Legion … Teamed with Zorro and feuded with Cibernetico.

**278 MIKE ROLLINS** (6'2", 230, 3, NL) The "Psycho" is competing head-to-head with Crazzy Steve for the unofficial designation of "most psychotic wrestler on the Canadian independent circuit" … Fan favorite is known for his punk rock stylings and outrageous personality … Actually seems to draw strength from being on the receiving end of stiff chops—the harder he's hit, the more energy he comes back with … Finisher is an impressive vertical suplex into a Death Valley driver.

**279 METAL MASTER** (5'10", 218, 13, 215) Established himself as a superior grappler throughout the 2000s under his real name, Chad Collyer, before adopting the Metal Master persona in 2008 … Had a series of memorable matches against Alex Shelley in late-2009 … Also wrestled Mike Mondo in a critically praised bout in Ohio Valley Wrestling last year … Frequently competes in Europe and Japan … Briefly wrestled as Chad Malenko in honor of his trainer, Dean Malenko … Competed in the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament, but lost in round one.

**280 JOSH DANIELS** (5'8", 205, 8, 278) Recently returned to ISPW, where he has acquired the managerial services of Tammy "Sunny" Sytch … Has recently added a vicious punt-style face kick to his arsenal of lariats, chops, suplexes, and kicks … Has feuded with Stevie Richards, Quiet Storm, and Papadon in recent months … Has also been competing for Maryland Championship Wrestling, NYCE, and ACE (New Jersey) … Nearly took the MCW title from champion Kent Brick, but fell short … Has engaged in a lengthy feud with Bruno Marciano.

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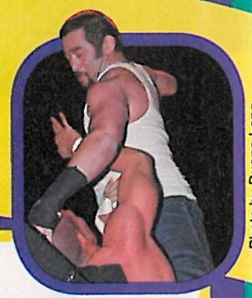


Photo by Duane Long

**281 DUSTIN CUTLER** (6'3", 220, 5, 291) Southern California competitor claims to hail from "Your Local GNC" … Teams with his brother (and fellow fitness buff) Brandon … The brothers have had a lengthy rivalry with their trainers, The Young Bucks … One of the most innovative tag teams on the independent circuit, with a variety of unique double-team moves … Brothers have begun competing for Dragon Gate USA … Dustin's the power merchant of the team … Uses a hard-to-defend low dropkick that targets opponents' knees.

**282 DEREK WYLDE** (5'11", 189, 12, NL) "The Dangerboy" is an Ontario wrestling mainstay and one of the most respected independent talents in Canada … Wrestled his "retirement match" against Tyson Dux in 2009, but apparently Wylde wasn't ready for the "old wrestlers' home" … Defeated Cody Deaner to win the Pro Wrestling Xtreme heavyweight title … Currently holds the Classic Championship Wrestling heavyweight title … Known for his thrilling sky-drill press and his Burning Hammer variation called The Hard Goodbye.

**283 JOHNNY CURTIS** (6'4", 238, 11, NL) Former male model is a promising member of the Florida Championship Wrestling roster … Held the FCW tag team title with Tyler Reks, winning the championship from The Hart Dynasty … Faced Reks for the FCW heavyweight title several times, but was unable to take the gold … Has wrested several WWE dark matches this year and is likely to be called to the main roster soon … Started wrestling in 1999 after being trained by Killer Kowalski … Finisher is a diving leg guillotine.

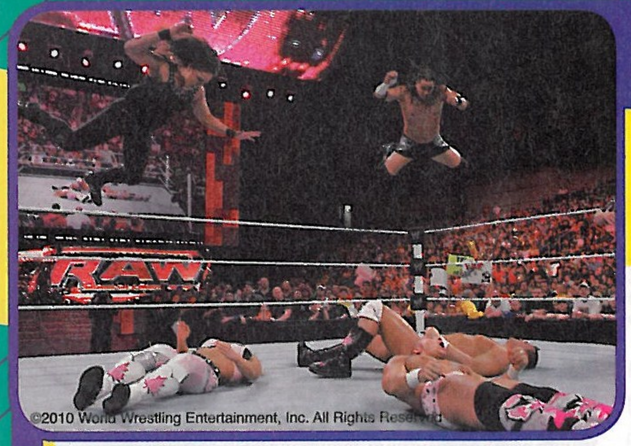
**284 NICK GAGE** (6'2", 221, 11, 217) The hardcore king of CZW is back in action after a frightening moment last summer where he had an artery severed with a broken light tube … Had to be air-lifted from the arena and was lucky to survive, but was back in the ring just six days later, against doctors orders … Competed for Big Japan in May in Yokohama … Calls himself "The Man" and specializes in ultra-violent hardcore matches, but has also had success in traditional matches.

**285 SHADOW JACKSON** (6', 268, 10, NL) Lost the NWA Anarchy heavyweight title to Mikal Judas when he competed with a concussion, against doctors orders … Still considered to be "The People's Champion" of NWA Anarchy … Utilizes a power-based offense built around a crushing spinebuster and The Hustla's Elbow … Great promo man has been favorably compared to Dusty Rhodes … Competes in Georgia and the Carolinas … Had a lengthy feud against Jeremy Vain in 2009 that saw Jackson defeat Vain for the Anarchy championship.

**286 BRANDON CUTLER** (6'3", 185, 5, 281) The Cutler Brothers—Brandon and Dustin—are quickly becoming one of the top tandems on the West Coast … Trained by Ron Rivera and The Young Bucks … Have one of the best double-team finishers in wrestling, a spike piledriver variation that sees Dustin hoist the opponent up for the move and Brandon come off the ropes with a leaping seated senton, adding his own weight to the move … Brandon is the leaner of the two brothers and is slightly quicker.

**287 DARIN CORBIN** (5'10", 200, 6, 401) One-half of The Northstar Express with Ryan Cruz … Competed in CHIKARA's Young Lions Cup and King of Trios tournaments this year … Defeated his tag partner Ryan Cruz to win the Echo Pro Wrestling title in a thrilling match … There was no dissension between Corbin and Cruz when they beat The Motor City Machine Guns for the AAW tag belts … Singles finisher is either his Ginger Snap Ace crusher or The Whizbang, another stunner variation.

**288 JIMMY WANG YANG** (5'9", 206, 11, 169) Wrestling's favorite Korean redneck was released by WWE in April after seven on-again, off-again years … Also competed in WCW (in the Jung Dragons), TNA (in the Flying Elvises), and in ROH … Received a 30-day suspension for violating WWE's Wellness Policy last summer … Formed an unsuccessful tag team with Slam Master J prior to his WWE release … Underrated competitor whose trademark stiff style was stifled in WWE … Sought after on the indy circuit and would be a natural fit in TNA.




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## 281 TO 296

**289 QUIET STORM** (5'8", 205, 8, NL) Intense striker is back in the U.S. after a lengthy stint in Japan … Competed in the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament, defeating Mikaze in the opening round before falling to tournament winner Nick Logan … Once a high-flying cruiserweight, Storm has added significant muscle and batters adversaries with stiff strikes and kicks and brutal high-impact moves, such as his Storm Cradle Driver … Also uses a flipping piledriver … Competes in the NYCW … Longtime rival of The Amazing Red.

**290 TURSAS** (6'7", 375, 3, NL) "The Man Of 1,000 Chops" is an indestructible monster in CHIKARA … Teamed with Claudio Castagnoli and Ares as *Bruderschaft des Kreuzes* to win the 2010 King of Trios tournament … Mysterious masked man has earned comparisons to Abyss … Signature moves include the power bomb, the big splash, and the black hole slam … Persona is based on the Scandinavian deity of the same name, a malevolent sea god.

**291 JULES USO** (6', 220, 3, NL) An identical twin son of Rikishi recently made a surprise debut on *Raw*, attacking The Hart Dynasty with brother Jimmy … The brothers have been earning rave reviews in Florida Championship Wrestling, where they defeated Joe Hennig and Brett DiBiase for the tag team belts … Dropped the belts to *Los Aviadores* just after the grading period ended … Managed by Tamina, the daughter of Jimmy Snuka … Has an explosive high-elevation Samoan drop variation … Tapes his fists to add punching power.

**292 ACE ROCKWELL** (6', 212, 10, 374) Known as "The Seven-Figure Deal," Rockwell is one of the most popular wrestlers in NWA Anarchy and is the only triple crown champion (heavyweight, TV, and tag team title) in that promotion's history … Known for his resilience and his ability to absorb incredible amounts of punishment without backing down … Embroiled in a nasty feud with former partner Truitt Fields … Main finisher is his Aces High Ace crusher variation … Style is a blend of technical wrestling and brawling.

**293 RYAN KRUZ** (5'8", 182, 6, 411) One-half of the North Star Express with partner Darin Corbin … Teamed with Corbin and Arik Cannon as The F1rst Family in the 2010 CHIKARA King of Trios tournament, but the team was ousted in the first round by Lince Dorado, Pinkie Sanchez, and Tim Donst … Finishers are the Boom Shaka-Laka power bomb driver and the Kruz Control Alabama slam/splash combo … Has been compared to a young Matt Hardy for his appearance and his overall wrestling style.

**294 PEPPER PARKS** (6', 225, 11, 248) The former NWA National champion has been competing in Western New York, Pennsylvania, and Ontario … Was the favorite to win the vacant Apocalypse Wrestling Federation heavyweight title, but succumbed to Jonny Puma … Has appeared on WWE TV several times this year, losing matches on *ECW On Syfy* and *Smackdown* … Buffalo native trained under Les Thatcher in Heartland Wrestling before returning to his home town … Solid all-around mat wrestler is a chameleon, able to transition from fan favorite to heel with ease.

**295 KONNAN** (5'11", 240, 23, 147) Refuses to give up in his mission to gain control of AAA … As leader of the Foreign Legion, he became AAA's general manager … Lost a winner-takes-all cage match, forcing him to disband the faction and leave the company … Returned with a revamped Legion … Convinced Joaquin Roldan's son Dorian to join in his quest to destroy the company … Uses a devastating power bomb to defeat his opponents.

**296 JIMMY USO** (6', 220, 3, NL) Jimmy is the natural talker of the Uso team and has been wrestling for slightly longer than his twin brother, Jules … Trained under his father, Rikishi, before attending the Florida Championship Wrestling school … Jimmy is a fluid high-flyer with good balance and agility … Stuns opponents with a leaping bulldog or a series of hard headbutts … Proud to be carrying the torch as the "next generation" of Samoan tag teams in wrestling.

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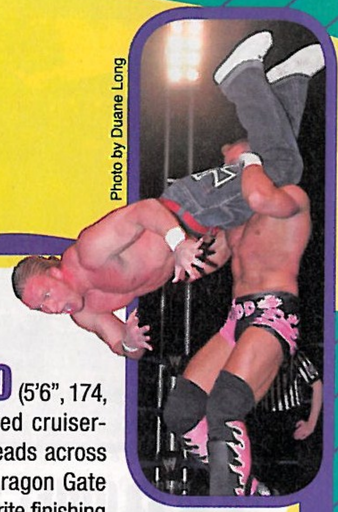


Photo by Duane Long

**297 SEAN MORLEY** (6'3", 260, 15, NL) The former Val Venis returned to the national scene with a brief run in TNA earlier this year … Scored an upset win over Christopher Daniels and pinned Jeff Jarrett in an impromptu falls-count-anywhere match ordered by Eric Bischoff … Left TNA, citing the move of *Impact* to Monday nights, which he said would conflict with his bookings in Mexico's CMLL promotion … Continues to compete for CMLL … Former WWE Intercontinental champion has also held the CMLL heavyweight and WWC TV titles … Finisher is the Money Shot splash off the top rope.

**298 JOHNNY PRIME** (6'5", 238, 2, NL) The New Port Richey, Florida, native has been re-named Lucky Cannon and is a member of the second season cast of *WWE NXT* … Paired with Mark Henry as his NXT mentor … Adopted the name Lucky to remember surviving a severe childhood illness and going on to live his dream of being a wrestler … Has feuded with some of Florida Championship Wrestling's top stars, including Alex Riley, Drew McIntyre, and Joe Hennig … Former arena football player signed a WWE developmental deal in late-2008.

**299 SLAM MASTER J** (5'10", 210, 10, 165) Formerly known as Jesse, he was the tag team partner of Festus (Luke Gallows) before adopting a cheesy hip-hop persona … Formed a team with Jimmy Wang Yang, but the duo rarely appeared on TV … Competed in the pre-show battle royal at WrestleMania 26 … Was released from WWE a few weeks after 'Mania … The son of "Freebird" Terry Gordy … Underrated grappler who never quite gained a foothold in WWE … Main finisher is a diving senton.

**300 GLEN OSBOURNE** (6'1", 260, 20, 284) The massive, war-painted veteran pinned "Nature Boy" Buddy Landell to win the revived Tri-State Wrestling Alliance title … Teamed with Shatter as The War Gods to win the WPW Flamingo Cup tournament and tag title … Demonstrated his strength when he superplexed the 400-pound Maifu to win a no-DQ match in the ECWA … Philadelphia mainstay uses the choleslam and power bomb as his finishers … Turned on longtime ally Tony Stetson, blasting his fellow ECW original with a steel chair.

**301 XTREMO** (5'6", 174, 6, 448) Lauded cruiserweight has been turning heads across Canada … Competed on Dragon Gate USA's Canadian tour … Favorite finishing moves include the 450 splash and the X-Bomb sunset-flip bomb … Won an Ontario fan poll for High-flyer of the Year for three consecutive years, leading to Scott D'Amore presenting him with an award as High-flyer of the Decade … Trained by El Fuego … Regularly competes in Maximum Pro Wrestling, Squared Circle Wrestling, and C4 Wrestling.

**302 JOEY MERCURY** (5'9", 191, 14, NL) Former member of M-N-M is back in WWE, this time aligned with C.M. Punk and the Straight Edge Society … Has made several appearances on WWE TV, interfering on Punk's behalf while wearing a mask to hide his identity … Three-time WWE tag team champion has also held several tag titles with Christian York … Suffered a gruesome facial injury at Armageddon 2006 when he was smashed in the face with a ladder … Has also competed in ROH, TNA, and the original ECW.

**303 ROBBIE McALLISTER** (6', 240, 10, 232) Has had a breakout year as a singles competitor, though he still teams with Rory on occasion … Has held the Newfoundland heavyweight title for more than a year …Won the Border City Wrestling title with a win over Tyson Dux … Has also scored wins over Cody Deaner and Jesse Neal … Has wrestled more than 150 singles matches over the past year and says he's "10 times the wrestler I ever was in WWE."

**304 ROB ECKOS** (5'10", 204, 10, 176) One-half of The Valedictorians (with Billy Bax), Eckos now prefers to be called "The Platinum Poppa" … Claims to be the greatest pop star and entertainer in every country, except the U.S. … Holds the Tri-State championship, which he has successfully defended against Danny Doring and Ace Darling … Occasionally teams with both Romeo Roselli and Angelina Love, who has also been his manager … Competes throughout the Northeast, including FNW, TWA, NEW, and the ECWA.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

## 291 TO 312

**305 BRANDON BONHAM** (5'11", 215, 5, NL) Native of Valhalla, California, cut his teeth in Midwest Pro Wrestling, where he competed as Kid Krazy … Relocated to the West Coast and regularly competes for Pro Wrestling Guerilla … An expert at using the ropes to his advantage, either to set up his impressive avalanche front flip Ace crusher or as a springboard to provide additional momentum … Has been known to use an impressive version of the Van Terminator … Sets up his "Hammer Of The Gods" finisher with his "Uh-Oh! Dropkick" delivered to an opponent slumped in the corner.

**306 MIKE MONDO** (5'8", 229, 8, 223) The reigning Ohio Valley Wrestling champion is widely respected and considered one of the best pound-for-pound wrestlers on the independent circuit … Beat Beef Wellington for the OVW title … Held the WWE tag team title as part of The Spirit Squad … Won the OVW Southern tag title with Turcan Celik in November 2009, but they lost the belts just one week later to The Network … Also an accomplished trainer.

**307 RORY McALLISTER** (6'1", 230, 10, 225) The bald-headed Highlander continues to compete on the Canadian independent circuit … Still mainly competes in tag teams, while partner Robbie has ventured into singles competition … Trained by Waldo Von Erich … Served as the spokesman of the team during its WWE run … His signature moves are a double ax-handle chop to the chest, the headbutt, and a side slam backbreaker … Has a weird penchant for putting opponents' heads up his kilt.

**308 ADEN CHAMBERS** (6', 194, 8, 270) The former O.C. Boy made a big splash on the national scene when he won the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament … Beat Frankie Arion, Maverick, and Alex Kozlov to win that tournament … Trained by Mark Shrader … Blends a conservative mat wrestling style with high-risk aerial attacks … Betrayed the ECWA faithful when he turned on the Logan brothers and aligned with shady manager Magnum … Competed in the 2009 MCW Shane Shamrock Memorial Cup tournament.

**309 BENJAMIN BOONE** (6'3", 260, 3, NL) Detroit native is known as "The Big Bear" for his intimidating size and intensity … Aligned with N8 Mattson as The Sons of Michigan in Pro Wrestling Ohio … Currently feuding with Aaron Draven for the PWO TV title … Claims credit for putting Virus out of wrestling … Primary finisher is the Bear Trap DDT … Also uses a painful head vise he calls the Bear Claw … Made it to the semifinals of a tournament to determine a number-one contender for the PWO title.

**310 HARTLEY JACKSON** (6'2", 245, 12, 336) Australian bruiser has competed throughout that continent, as well as in America and Japan … Began his career as a high-flyer, but has since adopted more of a ground-'n'-pound approach, especially following his tours with New Japan … Recently returned to Japan with ZERO-1, where he formed an effective team with Steve Corino … Has added noticeable muscle mass, which is reflected in the nickname he uses in ZERO-1: "The Bull" … Former PSWA hardcore and EPW tag team champion.

**311 PRINCE NANA** (5'11", 220, 14, 459) Best known as a manager, the Ghanaian prince is an underrated wrestler in his own right … Competed in the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament. where he lost in the opening round to eventual winner Nick Logan … After the match, Logan took the microphone and declared that Nana was one of the best wrestlers he'd ever faced … Has reformed The Embassy in Ring of Honor … Has held the ECWA heavyweight and Mid-Atlantic titles (twice) and the USA Pro title.

**312 BILLY BAX** (5'10", 210, 11, 187) Frequent tag team partner of Rob Eckos … Has competed throughout Delaware, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New Jersey … Has added noticeable muscle mass in the past year, which has made his belly-to-belly and snap suplexes and tilt-a-whirl gutbuster that much more effective … Former ECWA Mid-Atlantic champion is also a member of the ECWA Hall of Fame … Lost to Eckos in the opening round of the 2007 ECWA Super 8 tournament, which severely strained their partnership.

# PWI 500

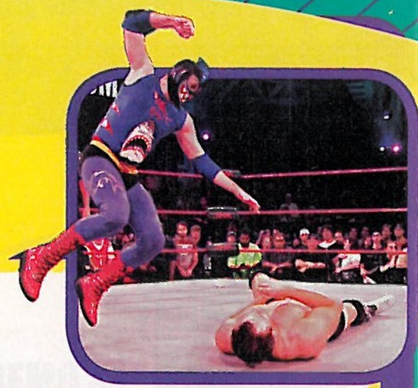


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

**313 SHARK BOY** (5'10", 205, 13, 321) Finned fan favorite has had a difficult year, losing most of his possessions in a house fire in 2009 and fighting illnesses last summer … Continues to compete on the independent circuit and occasionally appears on TNA's "Spin Cycle" segment online … Continues to run his own pro wrestling school called The Shark Tank … Deep Sea Drop and Chummer are his finishers of choice.

**314 STRONGMAN** (6', 309, 7, NL) American bodybuilder Jon Anderson competes for California's Pro Wrestling Revolution, Mexico's CMLL, and New Japan … Has competed in several strongman and World's Strongest Man competitions … Has bench-pressed 565 pounds for three reps, squatted 775 pounds for three reps, and has a 35-inch vertical leap, which is positively freaky … Scored a big win over Ultimo Guerrero in March to become the top contender for Guerrero's CMLL heavyweight title … Lost to Hiroshi Tanahashi in the first round of the 2010 New Japan Cup tournament … Favors the gorilla press slam and chokeslam.

**315 JIMMY RAVE** (5'11", 186, 10, 181) Former member of the Rock and Rave Infection was released by TNA in February 2009 … Returned to ROH where he had a violent feud with Necro Butcher, ending in a very bloody dog-collar match … Beat Murder One for the Great Championship Wrestling title last summer … Lost that belt to Johnny Swinger but regained it a short time later … Beat Sal Rinauro to win the RPW Intercontinental title … Was forced to relinquish both belts when a broken nose put him out of action.

**316 SCORPIO SKY** (5'10", 185, 8, NL) The man in the black and gold is one of the top stars in SoCal … Started his career in Revolution Pro Wrestling as El Gallinero before taking his current identity … Has competed in Pro Wrestling Guerilla and the short-lived WSX on MTV … Won the Enterprise Wrestling Association heavyweight title in July 2009 … Also won the XPW tag title with Luke Hawx, beating Matt Cross and Tool … Made his Ring of Honor debut in January … Main finisher is the Ace of Spades (a spinning fireman's carry into a facebreaker).

**317 JUSHIN LIGER** (5'7", 209, 21, 315) The living legend of junior heavyweight wrestling can still perform at a very high level after all these years … Captured his first singles title in a long time on New Japan's big May event, pinning old Mexican rival Negro Casas to win the CMLL welterweight title … After many years of using a brainbuster to finish matches, has begun surprising opponents with an air scissors drop (Thesz press) to win.

**318 SHAUN TEMPERS** (6'2", 228, 10, NL) Dubbed "The Sleeper Cell" because his innocent looks make it hard to believe he's aligned with an alleged Satanic cult known as The Devil's Rejects … Managed by "The Reverend" Dan Wilson … Has held the NWA Anarchy tag team title three times with three different partners … Held the NWA Anarchy TV title for eight months before losing it to Caprice Colemán … Main finishers are the Hangman's neckbreaker, the Temperpedic cobra clutch backbreaker, and the Beelzebomb Tiger Driver.

**319 JOHNNY KASHMERE** (6', 192, 12, 260) Philadelphia-area veteran recently announced his homosexuality, saying he was inspired by Chris Kanyon's tragic plight … Previously teamed with Trent Acid as The Backseat Boyz … Now teams with protégé Matt Walsh as Vanilla Man Candy … Operated Pro Wrestling Unplugged for several years, though that promotion has recently ceased operations … Known for his high-energy entrances and has recently begun giving lap dances to women on his way to the ring … A methodical competitor and savvy ring general.

**320 JACKSON ANDREWS** (6'11", 305, 2, NL) Massive Florida Championship Wrestling newcomer has been drawing comparisons to a young Kevin Nash … Physically imposing juggernaut manhandles opponents with running sideslams, stiff kicks, power bombs, and a big tree slam … Served as Curt Hawkins' bodyguard in FCW … Also had a run as Psycho Cyrus in Booker T's PWA promotion, where he wore a Lord Humongous-style mask … Big and athletic with potential to become a dominant WWE star soon.

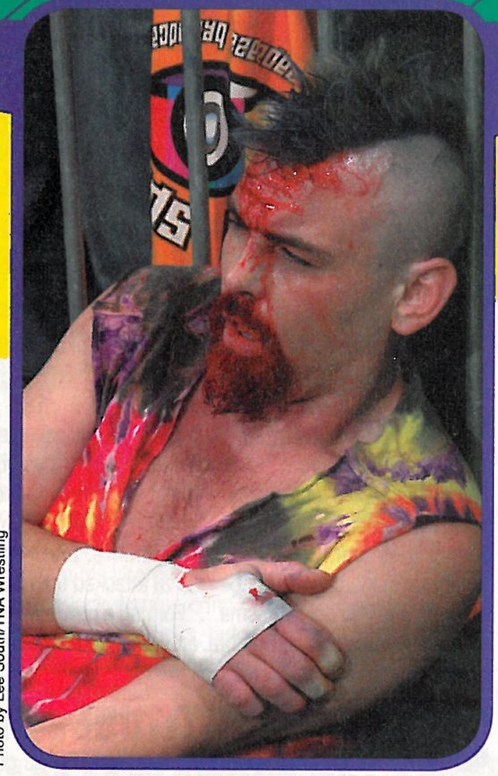


Photo by Lee South/TNA Wrestling

**321 THE BLUE MEANIE** (6'1", 435, 14, NL) The blue-haired man from Pepperland is still doing his thing throughout the Northeast indy circuit … Currently teaming with Kid America in the new Tri-State Wrestling Alliance … Graduate of Bodyslammer's Gym got his break in the original ECW and eventually landed in WWE … Still loves to rock the Daisy Dukes and shake his booty … Has a very impressive moonsault for a man his size … Has appeared in four low-budget horror films.

**322 JIMMY DeMARCO** (5'7", 192, 5, NL) Defeated Shiima Xion for the International Wrestling Cartel heavyweight match in a thrilling bout in December 2009 … Controversial grappler's favorite trash-talk line is "Suck my muscles" … Defeated Necro Butcher in a wild hardcore match … Decidedly un-PC, DeMarco has a dark side and can instantly flip from easy-going to completely unglued … Also competes in PWO and AIW … Finisher is the C4 (Candy Coated Cookie Cutter), a version of the RKO.

**323 DRAGON ROJO JR.** (5'10", 175, 9, NL) The former Diamante Negro and Zaracatan Jr. is one of Mexico's most promising luchadores … Joined the *Poder Mexica* stable created by Sangre Azteca … Held CMLL's national trios title with Black Warrior and Sangre Azteca until Black Warrrior quit and the belts were vacated … Challenged Mascara Dorada for the super lightweight title on several occasions, but failed to win … Also challenged Valiente for the national welterweight title, but came up short as well.

**324 BO ROTUNDA** (6'1", 230, 2, NL) The son of Mike "I.R.S." Rotunda made his debut in Florida Championship Wrestling in December 2008 as Taylor Rotunda … Third-generation grappler teamed with his brother, Duke, to win the FCW tag team title … Held those belts for nearly six months until losing them to Curt Hawkins and Caylen Croft … A standout linebacker in high school, he opted to go into wrestling instead of pursuing a collegiate football career … Great amateur and mat wrestling skills despite his relative inexperience.

**325 J.C. KEA** (6', 230, 6, NL) Returned to action in October 2009, just four months after having a broken neck surgically repaired … Took the surname Kea as a tribute to former All Japan Triple Crown champion Taiyo Kea, who was his tag team partner during his tour of Japan … Trained by Navajo Warrior … Utilizes a stiff, puroresu-inspired offense, including a vicious shining wizard … Known as "The Hawaiian Suplex Machine" … Also uses a lethal rear-naked choke and a devastating running enzuigiri.

**326 SPIKE DUDLEY** (5'8", 160, 16, NL) The runt of the Dudley clan made a surprise return to TNA to aid his brothers in their feud with The Nasty Boys … Regularly competes for Top Rope Promotions (where he also is head trainer), Squared Circle Wrestling, and Big-Time Wrestling … Wrestling's original giant-killer has held the ECW tag title, the WWE tag title, and the WWE cruiserweight title … Still uses the Acid Drop as his finishing move of choice.

**327 DAL KNOX** (5'11", 205, 6, 326) "The Deal" is one of the most popular and respected stars in New Zealand … Was the subject of a news magazine documentary feature in late-2009, making him the poster boy of wrestling in his country … Showed his hardcore side in a bloody Lights Out bout where light tubes were used as weapons … Has held the IPW heavyweight title multiple times … Known for his graceful suicide dives and a decapitating leg lariat … Currently recovering from injury and looking to return to the ring soon.

328 Is not listed. Wrestler #328 is



**Name:** Wesley Brisco

**Preferred Name:** Wes Brisco

**Date Of Birth:** Dec 21st 1983

**Place Of Birth:** Tampa, Florida, United States

DOB: Feb 21st

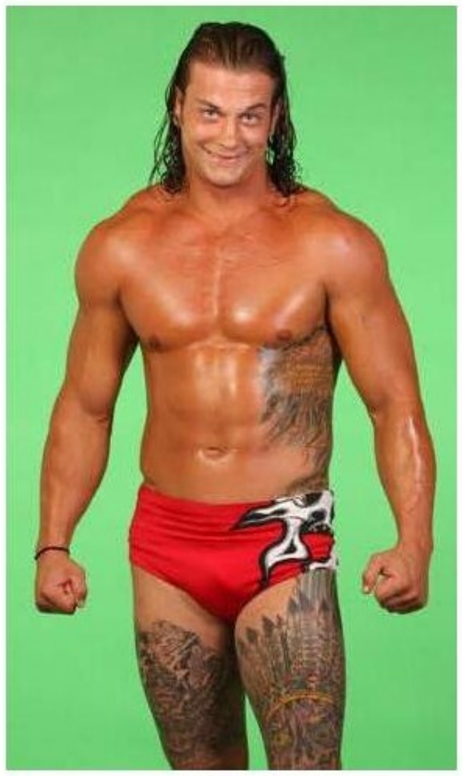
Was NL in 2009.

Stats: 5'10" -- 210 lbs

FCW Training

Debut: 2009

FINISHING MOVE: Brisco Roll



Wes Brisco grew up in Tampa, FL, watching his father and uncle, Jerry and Jack Brisco claim countless titles not only in the state of Florida, but around the world. From a young age, Wes knew he had it in his blood, and began learning the great skills of amateur wrestling from famous family. He quickly became an accomplished amateur wrestler throughout his formative years. Wes however, he chose a different route, pursuing professional wakeboading.

As a wakeboarder, Wes got opportunity to travel all over the world to promote his signature professional model wakeboard, and earning world class status in the field. When Wes was given the opportunity to follow in his father and uncle's footsteps, he jumped at the chance. Upon entering FCW, Wes was quick to prove himself capable of hard work and dedication. This relentless pursuit of success paid off when Wes won the Florida Tag Team Championship in 2010 with his partner, Xavier Woods.

Wes' style in the ring is juxtaposition of amateur wrestling and extreme sports, and it has served him well. Preferring to live on the edge, taking risks, Wes looks at the competition in FCW just like he looks at skydiving, bungee jumping, and spear fishing tiger sharks in Nicaragua: another adventure!

# PWI 500

**329 RON ZOMBIE** (6'3", 240, 15, NL) Hardcore maniac was trained by Killer Kowalski … Finisher of choice is the "Soul Crusher" spiked DDT … Teamed with Tommy Dreamer in an Extreme Rules tag team match in Northeast Wrestling in March … He and Dreamer faced Brian Anthony and Bull Dredd, with Mick Foley as the guest referee … Claims to hail from the House of 1,000 Corpses, Connecticut … When not spilling blood in the ring, he's playing guitar for a pair of heavy metal bands.

**330 M-DOGG 20** (5'7", 184, 9, 177) Competed on Hulk Hogan's Australia tour last year, and his matches against Shannon Moore were consistently considered the best matches of the cards … Defeated Moore in a $25,000 ladder match in front of more than 16,000 fans … Also competed in Mexico, the United Kingdom, Spain, Germany, and Egypt this year … In the U.S., he has been chasing Pro Wrestling Ohio champion Johnny Gargano … Former AAU junior gymnastics champion is one of the most athletic aerialists in the game.

**331 DUKE ROTUNDO** (6'2", 295, 1, NL) Third-generation competitor recently made his *WWE NXT* debut as Husky Harris, with Cody Rhodes as his mentor … The son of former WWE tag team champion Mike "I.R.S." Rotunda … Held the Florida Championship Wrestling tag team title with his brother, Bo … Won a state wrestling championship in high school in the 275-pound weight class … Played football on a college scholarship at Troy University for two seasons.

**332 MATT WALSH** (6'1", 200, 6, NL) Model and bodybuilder was signed to a WWE developmental contract after impressing scouts at an open audition, but he was released a short time later … Currently teaming with Johnny Kashmere as Vanilla Man Candy … Trained under Tom Prichard and Steve Keirn in FCW before relocating to WXW and training under Headshrinker Samu … Competes in Fight the World Wrestling in Long Island and Great Championship Wrestling in Levittown, Pennsylvania … Has competed against Sheamus and Tatanka.



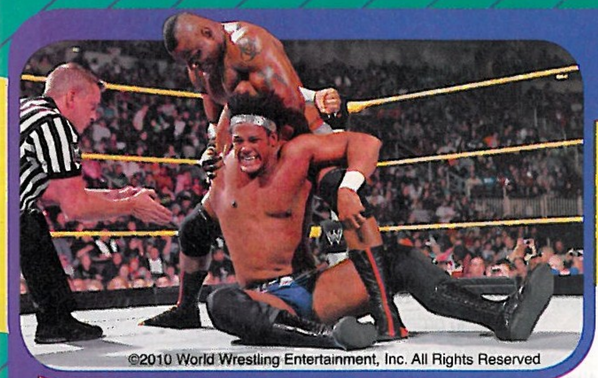
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**333 LA MASCARA** (5'9", 187, 10, 362) The son of Brazo de Oro is considered a top star of the future … Partnered with Negro Casas in the *Pareja Incredibles* tournament and lost in the final round to Mascara Dorada and Atlantis in January … CMLL championship trios team lost to Taichi, Okumura, and Hiroshi Tanahashi in March when Hector Garza attacked teammates Mascara and Hijo del Fantasma … Formed a new team with Mascara Dorada and La Sombra, and regained the trios title from the Japanese unit in May.

**334 BRAD ATTITUDE** (6'3", 232, 8, 325) "The Campus Legend" has competed in WWE, FCW, Heartland Wrestling, and NWA Wildside, among other promotions … Held the FCW tag team title twice with Spirit Squad member Nic Nemeth (Dolph Ziggler) … Previously went by the name Brad Allen … Was released from his WWE developmental contract in 2008 … Held the CWF Mid-Atlantic tag team title on two occasions … Currently competes in Pro Wrestling Fusion … Finisher is the Attitude Adjustment.

**335 SILAS YOUNG** (5'11", 190, 8, NL) Three-time NWA Midwest champion made several appearances in Ring of Honor this past year, including matches against Austin Aries, Bryan Danielson, and Tyler Black … Green Bay native beat The Sheik for his third NWA Midwest title in December 2009, but dropped the belt back to The Sheik one day later … Had previously been under a WWE developmental contract … Accomplished high-flyer is known for his 450-zero-gravity splash and his standing shooting star press.

**336 T.J. PERKINS** (5'9", 172, 10, 356) West Coast standout relocated from California to Florida this year … Perhaps better known as his alter-ego, the masked Puma, who has competed in TNA several times over the past few years … Appeared on *ECW On Syfy* in a match against Sheamus … Combined hard-hitting puroresu-style strikes, kicks, and knees with the speed and acrobatics of lucha libre … Signature moves include the 450-splash, the 86'er flying knee attack, and a version of the tombstone piledriver.



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## 329 TO 344

**337 SANGRE AZTECA** (5'9", 190, 13, 273) The warrior with Aztec blood is moving into higher-profile matches … As leader of the *Poder Mexica* stable, he is a threat to anyone opposing him … Had to give up his share of the CMLL national trios title when partner, Black Warrior, quit … Recruited Misterioso II and tried to regain the belts, but was unsuccessful … After a long reign as the national welterweight champion, he lost the title to Valiente … Signature move is his Mexica Stomp.

**338 GLAMOUR BOY SHANE** (6', 230, 21, 292) Longtime Puerto Rico competitor competed in TNA as referee-turned-wrestler Shane Sewell before being released in May 2009 … Competed in FCW, then returned to Puerto Rico … Defeated Idol Stevens for the WWC Puerto Rico title, but lost the belt to Orlando Colon … Won his third WWC Universal title in September 2009, but lost the title to Noriega a month later … Main finishers are an elbow from the top rope and a float-over DDT.

**339 PHIL ATLAS** (5'10", 194, 6, 405) Canadian aerialist has added an impressive striking and strong-style aspect to his game since returning from a successful tour of All Japan Pro Wrestling … Currently a top contender with Maximum Pro Wrestling in Ontario … Also competes throughout Michigan and Ohio … Graduated from Scott D'Amore's Can-Am Wrestling School in Windsor … Also trained under Kaz Hayashi in the AJPW dojo … Finishes opponents with the Tiger facebuster and Career Killer #3.

**340 TIM DONST** (5'10", 187, 3, 342) The former amateur wrestling standout scored the biggest win of his career in January, defeating Player Dos to win the CHIKARA Young Lions Cup … Trained under Mike Quackenbush and Claudio Castagnoli at Chikara's Wrestle Factory … Continued to wear his amateur headgear a la Rick Steiner … Finishers are the "Donstitution," a bridging Olympic slam (sometimes off the second rope) and the SDT, a front facelock STO … Also held the EPIC WAR title.

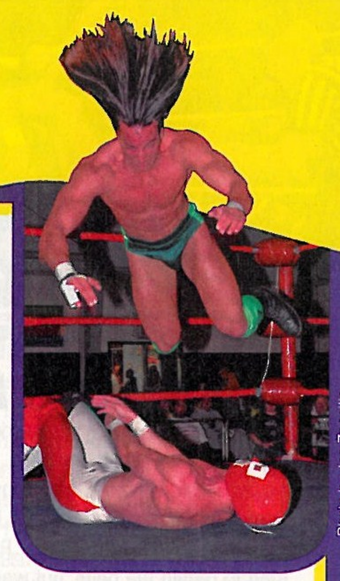
**341 EGOTISTICO FANTASTICO** (6'3", 224, 9, 385) Lean, lanky, eccentric star is a popular in the Midwest … Won the 2009 Combat Zone Wrestling Best of the Best tournament last June … Has also held the CZW junior heavyweight and Iron Man championships … Was under a WWE developmental contract from 2006 through 2008 … During that time, he abandoned the wacky would-be luchador persona and competed under his given name, Robert Anthony … Uses a cradle belly-to-belly piledriver he calls The Taco Bender … Innovative competitor isn't afraid to fly, though he sometimes dons a cape before leaping, just to be safe.

**342 LEO KRUGER** (6'1", 228, 12, NL) Native of Johannesburg, South Africa, relocated to Florida and joined the FCW roster in February … Veteran competitor previously competed under the monikers Ray Leppan and Dameon Duke … Favorite finishing moves are the sharpshooter and cradle piledriver … Competed with and against fellow South African Justin Gabriel prior to coming to FCW … Well-rounded competitor is powerful, adept at counter-wrestling, and effective when he goes up to the top rope.

**343 MICHAEL TARVER** (6'2", 256, 4, NL) The most disappointing member of the *NXT* cast seemed to give up on the competition after just a few weeks … Spent two years in the WWE developmental system before getting his break on *NXT* … *NXT* highlight was an upset win over Daniel Bryan … Former boxer is said to have a wicked knockout punch, but he rarely was able to use it in *NXT* competition … Previously held the PWX brass knuckles title … Has an impressive power slam.

**344 TOMMY THUNDA** (6'2", 231, 5, 301) Former WORLD-1 North American and tag team champion is the enforcer of Denver Street's Team Symbol faction … Currently teaming with Reiko DMF and pursuing WORLD-1 tag champions Steve and Colby Corino … Wrestled as Mr. Wrestling 3 against Tony Stetson in an attempt to steal Corino's title, but lost the match … Has an impressive leg lariat and a lethal left cross.

# PWI 500


Photo by Joe Zanoille

**345 KIMO** (6'1", 246, 3, NL) Known as "The Butcher Of Pyongyang," is one of the most feared wrestlers in the NWA … Managed by Jeff G. Bailey … Is rumored to have served as a bodyguard for Communist dictator Kim Jong Il … Noted for his unorthodox style and lethal martial arts strikes … Favored moves are the Seven-finger Death Punch and the Information Extractor submission lock … Was trained in American-style wrestling by Shannon Moore.

**346 TITO COLON** (6', 200, 5, NL) Florida Championship Wrestling competitor is the nephew of Puerto Rican legend Carlos Colon and the cousin of Carlito and Primo Colon … Currently holds the FCW tag team title as Dos Equis (with Hunico) … Trained by Carlos Colon and Dan Severn … Won the WWC heavyweight title four times … Challenged Shinjiro Otani for the ZERO-1 title but lost … Favorite move is a swinging leg hook fireman's carry slam.

**347 TRIK DAVIS** (5'9", 160, 8, 196) Chi-Town standout aspires to be a dancer with his own show on "Trikelodeon" … Trained by Chicago-area hero Sonny Rogers … Has competed for ROH, IWA: Mid-South, and CHIKARA, as well as several indy promotions throughout Illinois … Former IWA: MS heavyweight and tag team champion … Adept at technical grappling and lucha libre style, and will break the rules when pressed … Finisher is a tornado DDT.

**348 RYAN McBRIDE** (5'10", 185, 4, 395) "The Hotshot" won the 2009 Maryland Championship Wrestling Shane Shamrock Memorial Cup tournament last July … Also held the MCW cruiserweight title this year … Former Combat Zone Wrestling junior heavyweight champion … Formed a successful team with Teddy Stigma, winning titles in MCW, EWA, and GBW… Bostonian's repertoire includes a 450-splash, shooting star press, and Irish cloverleaf leglock … Willing to brawl when necessary.

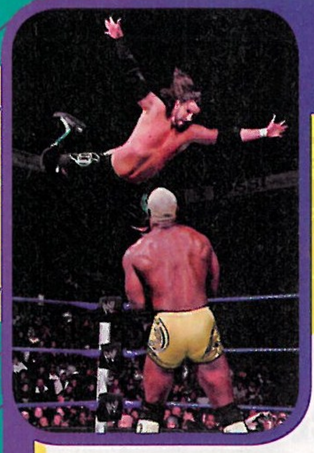
**349 J.D. MAVERICK** (5'10", 214, 10, 320) Two-time former OVW Southern tag champion has lessened his wrestling workload slightly in order to spend more time modeling, acting, and preparing for his first bodybuilding competition … Competed in Kentucky, Tennessee, Indiana, and North Carolina this year … Held the CCW title (twice) and the WCWC title … Often compared to Shawn Michaels for his agility and offensive style … Uses a neckbreaker he calls the Ratings Spike.

**350 SANTINO MARELLA** (5'10", 227, 6, 97) Two-time Intercontinental champion is known more for his comedic antics than his in-ring ability of which he has a surprising amount … Had rivalries with Jack Swagger and The Miz this year … Spent more time goofing off with *Raw* guest hosts than trying to win matches … Is rumored to be the star of a sitcom WWE is shopping, which would star Marella, Vladimir Zozlov, and Beth Phoenix … Uses a diving headbutt or a quick cradle.

**351 TRUITT FIELDS** (6'1", 231, 6, 311) The once-popular NWA Anarchy star became one of the most despised wrestlers in any NWA territory after turning on tag team partner Ace Rockwell and breaking the leg of Rockwell's girlfriend … Has adopted the torture rack as his finisher… Also uses his Killing Fields uranage … Held the NWA Anarchy TV title for more than 18 months … Also competed in Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, and the Carolinas.

**352 THE SHEIK** (6', 242, 12, 424) The master of the camel clutch defeated El Gran Apolo to win the NWA North American heavyweight title in January … Became the first man in NWA history to hold NWA state (Florida), regional (Midwest), and continental (North American) titles simultaneously … Based in Florida but also competes in the Midwest and Mid-Atlantic … Wrestled Savio Vega in a wild Globe of Death match in Puerto Rico … Received permission to use the name The Sheik from the estate of the original Sheik.

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# 34 TO 360

**353 NICKY BENZ** (5'10", 203, 13, 366) Bi-polar competitor wrestles as the hardcore Nick Berk and the show biz obsessed "Midnight Idol" Nicky Benz … Held the NWA Force-1 Iron League heavyweight title, which then became known as the Heritage title … Feuded with Judas Young in Force-1, Nicholas Nice in ISPW, and Jimmy Cicero in Tri-State … Lost his hair piece in an embarrassing scrap with Kamala in January … Former CZW heavyweight and Ironman champion.

**354 L.A. PARK** (6'1" 220, 28, NL) The original La Parka had a big year, recovering his identity … Spent months working on the independent circuit … Defeated Matematico Jr. in a mask-vs.-mask match … Joined the Perros del Mal promotion, mainly working as a tecnico … Shocked the lucha world by joining AAA, leaving his legal issues with the company behind … Immediately joined the Foreign Legion … Defeated the new La Parka to regain his right to the name.

**355 GREGORY HELMS** (6'1", 215, 19, 193) The Hurricane was released by WWE in February after a nine-year run with the company … Biggest feud of the past year was against Paul Birchall, who claimed that mild-mannered interviewer Helms and the masked Hurricane were one and the same … A two-time former cruiserweight champion and two-time former WWE tag team champion … Main finisher is the Eye of the Hurricane reverse bulldog and the shining wizard knee strike … Talented wrestler whose WWE career was marred by starts and stops due to injuries and legal woes.

**356 FRANKIE THE MOBSTER** (6'2", 225, 13, NL) The self-appointed "Goodfella" is the pride of the Quebec independents … Has competed all over Canada and made his Ring of Honor debut in 2009 … Has held the CZW Ironman title and the IWS heavyweight title … Main finisher is a choke bomb he calls The Credibility Statement … Also uses a wheelbarrow lift into a falling neckbreaker that he calls the Death Threat … Terrific promo man loves to put down fans, Don Ricklesstyle … Definitely not family-friendly.

**357 SINN BOWDIE** (6'2", 234, 10, 185) The former Kizarney is still plying his trade on the Florida indy circuit … Former carnival performer combines his knowledge of freak show stunts with catch-as-catch-can grappling … Highlight of his brief WWE run was a win over MVP … Outside the ring, he fronts the Dynamite Death Monkiez Full-Contact Freakshow, which must be seen to be believed … Occasionally managed by Stacy Carter … Finisher of choice is the TullulaBell, a double-hammerlock DDT with bodyscissors.

**358 HUNICO** (5'10", 210, 8, NL) Masked WWE developmental competitor was previously known as Incognito … Prior to signing with WWE, he competed for Mexico's AAA and CHIKARA … Competed as part of Team Mexico in TNA's 2006 World X-Cup tournament … Signed with WWE in early-2010 and began teaming with Tito Colon as *Los Aviadores* … Won the FCW tag team title from the Uso twins in May … Main finishers are the Swanton bomb and the Incognito Especial leglock.

**359 PAT BUCK** (6', 221, 8, 333) Spent more than four years wrestling in OVW, where he held the Southern tag team title several times with partner J.D. Michaels as Top-Shelf Talent … Relocated to Florida to compete for FCW, then moved to New York where he has become head trainer of the NYWC training facility … Also won the NYWC heavyweight title … Wears a pink bracelet in honor of his mother, who died from breast cancer in January 2009 … Donates 10 percent of his wrestling earnings to breast cancer research … Big moves are the Elvis Dream (Diamond Dust into a dragon sleeper) and Buck Shot spin kick.

**360 MAHONEY** (6'2", 305, 13, 322) The big man from Nutley, New Jersey, made his debut in Ring of Honor … Rescued Grizzly Redwood from an attack by Erick Stevens and The Embassy … Since his release from WWE in April 2008, the "Chair Swinging Freak" has turned up in Puerto Rico, TNA, The Insane Clown Posse's ICW, and several other indies … Hardcore specialist is a three-time ECW tag champion.

# PWI 500

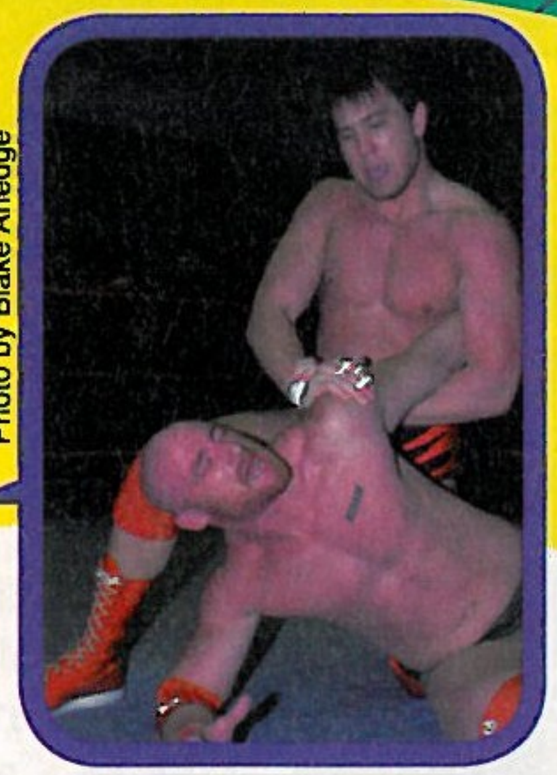


Photo by Blake Arledge

**361 JEREMY VAIN** (5'11", 220, 9, NL) Lives up to his surname as one of the most vain competitors in the Mid-Atlantic … With his platinum blond hair, great physique, and deep tan, he bears a striking resemblance to "Nature Boy" Buddy Rogers … Wins matches with his VDT, a DDT variation, and the figure-four leglock … Held the NWA Anarchy title for most of 2009 until dropping it to Shadow Jackson … Has recruited former arena football player Orion Bishop as his bodyguard and tag team partner.

**362 DON PAYSAN** (5'10", 189, 11, NL) Native of Campobasso, Italy, currently resides in Montreal … Defeated Alex Price to win the vacant Apocalypse Wrestling Federation championship in August 2009 … Exciting aerialist has traveled the world, including tours of Toryumon (Japan), Ring of Honor, Jersey All-Pro, CHIKARA, and Canada's Blood, Sweat, and Ears promotion… Calls his finishing move The Whop Drop … Also uses the Bada-Bing backbreaker and the Italian Stallion bodypress … Claims his unsurpassed ring skills make him "untouchable."

**363 JOHNNY GARGANO** (5'10", 205, 5, NL)Reigning Pro Wrestling Ohio champion defeated Josh Prohibition for that title in what turned out to be Prohibition's retirement match … Currently feuding with M-Dogg 20 (Matt Cross) … Quickly becoming one of the most talked-about young stars on the independent circuit … Also competes in EVOLVE, CHIKARA, and Dragon Gate USA … Wrestled Bryan Danielson in Danielson's final indy match before joining WWE … Finisher is a full-nelson buster called Uniquely You.

**364 RICHIE STEAMBOAT** (6', 205, 2, NL) The son of "The Dragon" actually made his WWE debut as a newborn at WrestleMania IV when his father carried him into the ring … Has grown into a tremendous athlete and one of WWE's top young prospects … Completed a successful tour of Puerto Rico before signing a WWE developmental deal earlier this year … Style is very similar to his Hall of Fame father's, with graceful armdrags, soaring bodypresses, and a dangerous overhand chop.

**365 CAPRICE COLEMAN** (6', 213, 13, NL) North Carolina veteran has returned to the ring after a lengthy sabbatical spent concentrating on his ministry … Is a protégé of fellow Carolinians Matt and Jeff Hardy … Defeated Shaun Tempers to win the NWA Anarchy TV title and has nearly won the NWA National championship on several occasions … Also holds the Christian Wrestling Federation heavyweight title … Real-life minister also has competed in Kuwait and Egypt.

**366 MASON RYAN** (6'6", 294, 3, NL) Massive Welshman has crossed the pond to compete in Florida Championship Wrestling … Extremely powerful with a chiseled physique, he is earning comparisons to a young Batista … Competed as The Celtic Warrior in the United Kingdom … Was a contestant on the *U.K. Gladiators* show (a version of *American Gladiators*), where he competed as Goliath … Has a thunderous fall-away slam and a decapitating running boot to the face … Deceptive speed and intensity make him particularly dangerous.

**367 SAVIO VEGA** (5'11", 248, 23, NL) "The Boss" is still active on the Puerto Rican wrestling scene … Defeated AP Dynamite for the Wrestling Alliance Revolution heavyweight title in October 2009 … Teamed with Miguel Perez Jr. to win the Dominican Wrestling Entertainment tag team title … Worked as a backstage agent for TNA … Uses a superkick and spinning heel kick as his main finishing moves … Based in the IWA and also has competed in Spain for Nu Wrestling Evolution.

**368 CHARLY MANSON** (5'9", 181, 19, NL) Now standing on his own as a much-in-demand freelancer … Returned to AAA from a leg injury with a different look … Entered into a gruesome and violent feud with Chessman that involved several hardcore matches … Was scheduled to face him in a hair-vs.-hair match, but walked out of the company days before the match was to occur … Started competing on the independent circuit … Worked a few shows for *Perros del Mal* … Finishing move is the Manson leglock.

# PWI 500

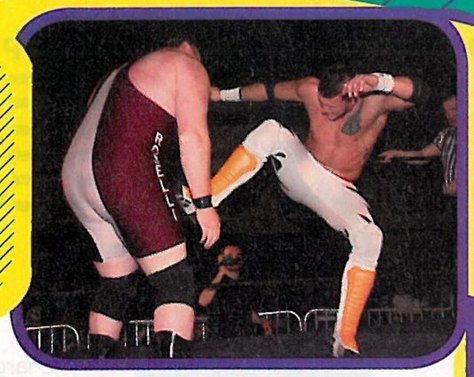


Photo by Shane M. Kidder/NWA

**369 JONNY PUMA** (5'11", 210, 9, 412) The man who coined the phrase "Don't hate me for being beautiful; hate yourself for being ugly" is the standard for excellence in Western New York … Now a fan favorite, Puma has been feuding with Chris Cooper for the ESW heavyweight title … Attempted a risky Superfly splash off the top of a cage in a match against Cooper, but missed … Won the AWF heavyweight title in Toronto … When not wrestling, performs standup comedy under the name Scott Heim.

**370 JOSH ALEXANDER** (6'2", 232, 4, NL) Protégé of Johnny Devine is known as "The Ronin" … Highlight of the past year was wrestling Devine in a closely contested loss in Max Pro Wrestling … Other career highlights including wrestling Robert Roode and The Honky Tonk Man and competing in the ECW Arena … Signature moves are the moonsault, the T.K.O., and the Tiger Bomb … Youngster also has an impressive stall suplex and superplex … Combination of size and counter-wrestling ability make him a formidable opponent.

**371 T.J. MACK** (5'10", 179, 9, 416) One-half of Team Macktion, along with his brother, Kirby Mack … The Carolinas-based team is one of the top tandems on the American independent circuit … Once turned on his brother to win the AWA light heavyweight championship, but that betrayal is forgotten and the brothers are back performing like a finely tuned machine … Singles finisher is the Around the World reverse tornado DDT … Also uses another DDT variation called The Encore, which is a springboard backflip diving inverted DDT.

**372 MARSHALL GAMBINO** (5'11", 280, 6, NL) Debuted in Pro Wrestling Ohio after he and his brother, Mickey, lost a loser-leaves-town match to Irish Airborne in the International Wrestling Cartel … Held the IWC tag title five times … Recruited to PWO by Aaron Maguire, who had him come in to eliminate Jason Bane and Hobo Joe … Has become a bodyguard for hire, counting Shiima Xion among his clients … Known as "The Bull" for his raw power … Uses a top rope splash and a swinging uranage he calls Six Inches From Hell.

**373 CHASYN RANCE** (5'9", 189, 11, 378) "The Independent Sensation" has won several championships over the past year, but his highest profile gig was as a contestant on VH-1's *Tool Academy* … Quit the show in the first episode of season three … The man who calls himself "Not Cocky" despite all evidence to the contrary, currently holds the AWA tag team title with Mister Saint Laurent … Won the DCW junior heavyweight title in May in a three-way with Gus Money and Cameron Matthews … Protégé and tag team partner of Larry Zbyszko … Florida mainstay has also competed in ROH … Finishers are the Sensational Spike and the Chasyn Driver.

**374 SHANE HASTE** (6'2", 225, 7, NL) Athletic Australian has been creating a buzz Down Under … Former EPW heavyweight champion … Completed a tour of the American West Coast in late-2009 … Lean and lanky competitor has an impressive vertical leap and a dangerous leg lariat … Known for his gravity-defying 630-dive … Trained by Davis Storm and F.N. Carnage … Was voted Best Wrestler in Western Australia in 2006 and 2007 fan polls.

**375 BOBBY DEMPSEY** (5'9", 282, 5, 349) "Big Bad" Bobby is finally earning some respect in Ring of Honor after years of being treated like a second-class citizen … Trained under C.M. Punk and Austin Aries … Big man is surprisingly nimble, with a very impressive dropkick … Favorite finishing move is a Death Valley driver … Also uses a diving cannonball in the corner and a version of the Vader bomb … Slow to anger, but willing to brawl.

**376 MATT BURNS** (5'11", 230, 8, 389) Bald-headed bruiser is one-half of The Flatliners, with partner Asylum … Fans have voted The Flatliners Ontario Tag Team of the Year for the past three years … Burns is a former PWX Toronto Xtreme heavyweight champion … Showed just how vicious he can be when he put Warhed through a fiery table, setting him ablaze … Mat-based brawler is a strong-style specialist with a nasty temper and a king-sized chip on his shoulder.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

## 369 TO 384

**377 KIRBY MACK** (5'11", 188, 10, 408) "Krazy-K" teams with his brother, T.J. Mack, as Team Macktion … Also referred to as "Your New Addiction" … Trained by Jeff and Matt Hardy, and Team Macktion has often been compared to a young Team Extreme … Based in South Carolina, Kirby has competed in WWE, Ring of Honor, TNA, and all over the independent circuit … Signature moves are the OverDoze (inverted legdrop bulldog into a split-legged pin), the tiger feint kick (6-1-9), the 450-splash, and the Around the World inverted tornado DDT.

**378 RYOUJI SAI** (6'3", 230, 9, 231) The young ZERO-1 star appeared to be on course to lead the promotion last year until legend Toshiaki Kawada arrived … Lost his ZERO-1 heavyweight title to Kawada and failed to win it back in a rematch this March … After rival Kohei Sato won the belt back, Sai challenged him but again fell short … Tall, talented, and charismatic, Sai is the victim of limited exposure in the part-time ZERO-1 promotion.

**379 DANNY DANIELS** (5'9", 220, 13, 394) Master of the piledriver is one of the most prominent and influential competitors in the Midwest … Held the SCW heavyweight title for nearly a year … Also teamed with Trik Davis to win the SCW tag team title from Tyler Black and Shane Hollister … Feuded with Hollister, Jimmy Jacobs, and Marek Brave in AAW … Recently renewed an old rivalry with Jerry Lynn … Trained Black, Hollister, Brave, Krotch, and the Chan Clan.

**380 DERRICK BATEMAN** (6'1", 220, 8, NL) WWE developmental talent has previously competed as Mike Hutter and Agent D … Wrestled in Ohio Valley Wrestling before relocating to Florida Championship Wrestling … Frequently teams with Adam Atherton … Endeared himself to female fans by wearing tear-away briefs that he strips off during his ring entrance … Nimble competitor can out-maneuver most competitors and can keep them off-balance with quick beel throws and armdrag takedowns.

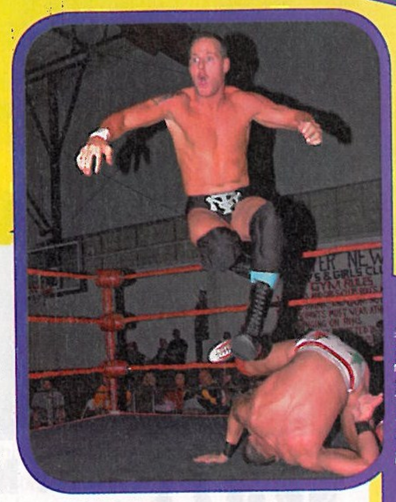
**381 ASYLUM** (6'1", 237, 10, 379) Madman is one-half of Canada's most decorated tag team, The Flatliners, with partner Matt Burns … Toronto native has competed in Australia, the United Kingdom, Korea, and New Zealand … Has wrestled for Ring of Honor on the company's tours of Canada … Raw ferocity and physicality are his greatest assets … Tag team finisher is called Death from Above, a 3-D variation into a DDT.

**382 KEVIN GRACE** (5'9", 186, 9, 392) The third All-Knighter (with Joey Knight and Robin Knightwing) held the Empire State Wrestling title for nearly a year until dropping it to Chris Cooper in April … Known just as much for his light-up glasses, glow sticks, and dancing as he is for his grappling … Also has held the NWA Empire Lord of the Dance, ESW Interstate, and FNW cruiserweight titles … Master of a variety of quick takedowns and cradles, including several hurricanrana variations … Has a bizarre phobia of bare feet.

**383 LYNX** (5'9", 174, 5, NL) Captured his second World Wrestling Council (Puerto Rico) junior heavyweight championship in April with a win over perennial rival Rikochet … Used the ropes for additional leverage to score the winning pinfall … Quick-footed cruiserweight has demonstrated a new killer instinct in recent months, attacking opponents after matches … Talented striker can take down larger competitors with rapid kicks to the legs and diving bodyblocks, which neutralizes his inherent size disadvantage.

**384 MIKE TOBIN** (6', 185, 10, NL) One-third of ECWA's Chick Magnets, Tobin was invited to compete in the 2009 Super 8 tournament … Suffered a broken wrist while executing a springboard legdrop in an opening-round loss to Tommaso Ciampa … Injury required surgery and has kept him out of action for several months … A native of the Bronx, New York, he relocated to Florida in 2008 and has competed for Pro Wrestling Fusion … Old-school aficionado uses a Tully Blanchard-inspired F5 slingshot suplex as his main finisher.

# PWI 500


Photo by Joe Zanolle

**385 TANK** (6'2", 380, 14, NL) "The Strong Style Psycho" is back in action after a brief sabbatical from the ring … Defeated Shaun Tempers in a Compound Death Match, which forced Tempers' group—The Devil's Rejects—to disband in Georgia, per the match stipulation … Massive competitor has experience in collegiate wrestling, barroom brawling, and hardcore matches … Has competed all over the U.S., including appearances in WWE and TNA.

**386 ULTIMO DRAGON** (5'6", 190, 23, NL) The iconic junior heavyweight pioneer has trained some of today's top young stars, but continues to compete himself around the globe … Appearances are less frequent in Japan nowadays for the former WCW star, but he has recently began appearing as the special "boss" of Michinoku Pro's Kowloon group, mentoring Fujita Hayato, Taro Nohashi, and others … Uses his self-innovated Asai DDT (standing shiranui) to finish matches.

**387 MARION FONTAINE** (6'1", 175, 5, NL) The self-proclaimed "Megastar" of Pro Wrestling Ohio has become disgruntled … Claims his time spent as fan favorite was because PWO management forced him into that role … Has become an outspoken critic of the promotion … Has held the Mega Championship Wrestling U.S. title for more than 16 months … Beat Matt Cross to become top contender for the PWO title … Describes his mustache as "flashy, funky, and fantastic."

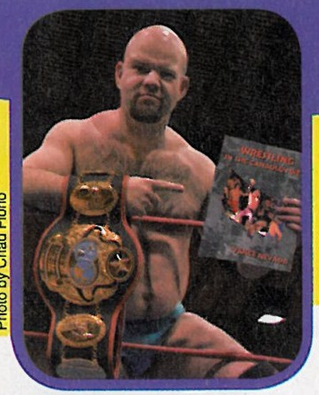
**388 ZAQUARY SPRINGATE III** (6'5", 238, 14, 397) Tall and arrogant Englishman plies his trade primarily in the Syracuse-based 2CW … Won the Apocalypse Wrestling Federation title in May 2009 but was quickly stripped of the title … Trained by Killer Kowalski … Finisher is an iron claw/chokeslam combination he calls the Briton Bomb … Has competed throughout the United States, Canada, and England … Competed in a tournament to crown a new Independent Pro Wrestling champion but was eliminated by Scotty Turner.

**389 MATT RIVIERA** (6'2", 230, 6, 497) It's been a great year for Matt Riviera, who has been living the good life ever since his appearance on the VH-1 show *Megan Wants A Millionaire* … Claims to be the wealthiest independent wrestler in the world with a multimillion-dollar net worth … Attributes his recent weight loss to a "revolutionary new" workout routine he calls The Riviera Twist … Arkansas native wears his pro-Southern feelings on his sleeve, which doesn't win him many friends north of the Mason-Dixon Line.

**390 CHASE DEL MONTE** (6'1", 215, 6, 276) Del Monte became the first person ever to hold both the Chaotic Wrestling and East Coast Wrestling Association titles simultaneously … Has held the CW title for more than a year … Is currently feuding with Rob Eckos for the ISPW Tri-State title … Competed in the 2008 ECWA Super 8 tournament … Primary finishing moves are a variation of the diamond cutter and a frog splash, usually preceded by a superkick or flipping neckbreaker.

**391 RICKY REYES** (5'9", 188, 10, 246) "The Cuban Crippler" completed a year-long tour of Puerto Rico, where he won the World Wrestling Council junior heavyweight title on two occasions … Defeated Alex Anthony for the WORLD-1 North American championship … Has also returned to Ring of Honor for the first time since 2006 … Managed by "The Certified Genius" Rob Dimension … Is a trainer at the Revolution Dojo in Allentown, Pennsylvania … Has an effective brainbuster and dragon sleeper.

**392 KENZO SUZUKI** (6'3", 260, 10, NL) Burly Japanese competitor has been active in Japan and Mexico … Former WWE tag team champion with Rene Dupree … Competed in the 2009 AAA *Rey de Reyes* tournament … Upon the dissolution of Konnan's Foreign Legion, formed a team with El Oriental and Sugi San … Usually uses a brainbuster or a head vise STO as his main finishing moves … Has also competed in TNA and New Japan.


Photo by Chad Fiorio

# 385 to 400

**393 SIMON SEZ** (6'2", 210, 3, NL) "The Emerald Emperor Of Professional Wrestling" has successfully made the transition from manager to wrestler … Got his break as a manager in WXW in Pennsylvania before moving to Florida … Held the All-Star Wrestling heavyweight title for more than five months … Teamed with Eric Cooper to win the Vintage Wrestling tag team title … Finishes off opponents with a vicious lariat called The Sez Express … A great talker with the bruising offense to back it up.

**394 VANCE NEVADA** (5'11", 216, 17, 413) "Mr. Beefy Goodness" continues to be one of the busiest wrestlers in the Canadian independents, touring from Vancouver to Newfoundland … Held the All-Star Wrestling Trans-Canada title for 13 months until losing it to Disco Fury … Was honored by the Cauliflower Alley Club with the prestigious James C. Melby historian award for his book *Wrestling In The Canadian West* … Recently wrestled his 1,300th professional match.

**395 JOEY KNIGHT** (5'8", 185, 12, 388) Original All-Knighter is tearing it up in Florida, where he has faced Gavin Spears, Sinn Bohdi, Jesse Neal, and Stevie Richards … Claims to be angling for a spot in the "*PWI* Female 50," having scored wins over Jennifer Blake, Angel Williams, and Awesome Kong … Calls himself "The Joe-verine" … Also serves as a referee with Wrestlicious … The original trainer of Beth Phoenix … Competed against his All-Knighter partners Robin Knightwing and Kevin Grace in the re-launched Apocalypse Wrestling Federation.

**396 ORION BISHOP** (6'2", 295, 4, NL) Physical stud is a former collegiate and Arena League Football competitor … Finishes opponents with a running tackle he calls the Long Count … One of the most dominant wrestlers in the NWA territories, Bishop currently holds both the NWA Mid-American and NWA-Tennessee heavyweight championships … Teams with Murder One as the Merchants of Death … A highly sought-after talent, Bishop is featured in NWA Anarchy, NWA Main Event, Great Championship Wrestling, and Global Championship Wrestling.

**397 AERO STAR** (5'7", 150, 7, NL) Exciting Mexican cruiserweight is building a following with his death-defying dives, sometimes off the lighting rig above the ring … Won the 2008 *Alas de Oro* tournament, which also included Teddy Hart, Extreme Tiger, and Jack Evans … Debuted his Aero Star persona in 2006 after competing under a variety of different names … Became the cornerstone of Real Fuerza Aerea, a contingent of high-flyers … Won his first AAA title in September, teaming with Faby Apache to win the mixed tag title.

**398 JOHN McCHESNEY** (5'10", 190, 8, 398)Formerly known as "Fabulous," McChesney has now graduated to "Big League" … Recently formed Team Big League with Shane Taylor and Sassy Stephanie in Cleveland … Four-time former IWC Super Indy champion currently holds the Firestorm Pro heavyweight and Pro Wrestling Rampage tag team (with Aaron Draven) titles … Recently feuded with Pepper Parks and Johnny Swinger … Has appeared on WWE TV several times without a win.

**399 ROBIN KNIGHTWING** (5'8", 212, 12, 386) Claims to be "The Sexiest Monkey You'll Ever Meet" … Helped re-launch the Apocalypse Wrestling Federation with Ron Hutchison in Toronto in 2009 … When not wrestling, he performs in a Blues Brothers tribute band on a cruise ship, and it's said he's almost as good as Belushi was … Has made several successful tours of England … Teams with Joey Knight and Kevin Grace as The All-Knighters … Recently got married, but claims married life isn't going to stop him from being a "Sexy Monkey."

**400 BAZOOKA JOE** (6'1", 250, 4, NL) Barrel-chested heel claims to come from "The Joe Zone Layer" … Defeated Chase Del Monte to win the ECWA heavyweight title in September 2009 … Held that championship for eight months until dropping it to Mega … Successfully defended the title against Freak Nastty and Mozart Fontaine … Also held the WPW heavyweight title … Finisher is the $0^3$, a torture rack into a neckbreaker … Based in Delaware but has toured the country.

# PWI 500

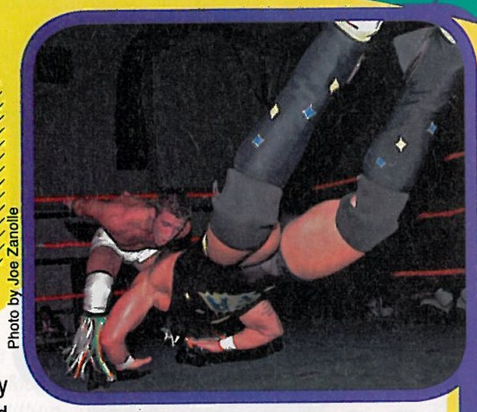


Photo by Joe Zanolle

**401 TITAN** (7', 340, 3, NL) Gargantuan wrestler is competing on the Florida independent scene … Was trained by Dory Funk Jr. … Made a big splash right away, competing in front of more than 60,000 fans for New Japan Pro Wrestling his rookie year … Was previously under a WWE developmental contract, but was released in 2008 … Based in Pro Wrestling Fusion … Has a deadly chokeslam … When not wrestling, participates in Sinn Bowdie's Dynamite Death Monkiez traveling freak show.

**402 BIG E. LANGSTON** (6', 280, 2, NL) Former lineman at the University of Iowa is competing in Florida Championship Wrestling … Collegiate football career was marred by four knee surgeries … Wrestled in high school in Florida where he won a state heavyweight championship his junior year … Strong and stocky competitor typically relies on basic power moves and punches and is still developing his ring mobility, counter-wrestling, and ring presence … Was a pre-med major in college.

**403 DAMIEN SLATER** (6', 215, 7, 343) Australian trained under local stars Col. Dervany and Hartley Jackson before traveling to California and studying under T.J. "Puma" Perkins … Competes for NWA Australia, PWA, NWA Pro, and EPW … Former JPW cruiserweight champion … Calls his finishing move "The Bible Basher," which is a reverse cradle driver … Also uses the "Holier Than Thou" diamond dust and cobra clutch neckbreaker.

**404 RUDY SWITCHBLADE** (6', 205, 12, NL) The former Eric Matlock currently holds three championships in three different states … Teams with Johnny Punch as Knuckles and Knives … Based in Ohio Valley Wrestling, but has competed in Japan, Korea, Mexico, Guam, and the Pacific Islands … Has held the SIWF heavyweight championship … Appeared on *ECW On Syfy* in a loss to Zack Ryder … Primary moves include the frog splash and In Your Face hand stomp/dropkick-to-face combo.

**405 JOSEF VON SCHMIDT** (6'4", 260, 2, 483) Hulking German recently defeated Sterling James Keenan in Pittsburgh for the Far North Wrestling heavyweight title … In just two years has won championships in New York, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Canada … Based in the Northeast but has had several successful tours of Nova Scotia … Lost a casket match to rival Giant Grimez in April … Favorite moves include the Cradolf Hitter-Plex and the Euro-Hammer … Always controversial, but his success cannot be denied.

**406 MATT LOGAN** (6', 215, 8, 279) With his brother Bryan, is a four-time Chaotic Wrestling tag team champion … … Competed in the 2007 ECWA Super 8 tournament, defeating Rob Conway before losing to the eventual winner, Jerry Lynn … Has also held the Chaotic heavyweight title and the ECWA Mid-Atlantic and tag team titles … Logans captured the ECWA tag team title on the same night kid brother Nick won the Super 8.

**407 RICOCHET** (5'10", 174, 6, 261) Competes under a mask as Helios in CHIKARA and unmasked as Richochet in several other independent promotions … Debuted for EVOLVE at the company's first show with a win over Arik Cannon … Also faced Chuck Taylor and Johnny Gargano in losing efforts on EVOLVE cards … Former CHIKARA Young Lions Cup winner … Main finishing move is the Chocolate Rain driving double-kneedrop and the double-rotation moonsault … Currently holds the Insanity Pro Wrestling junior heavyweight title.

**408 ALEX PRICE** (5'10", 173, 7, NL) The eccentric and unorthodox Price is one of the best-kept secrets on the independent circuit … Based in Montreal, he is considered one of the best pound-for-pound wrestlers in Quebec … Trained by Quebec veteran Marc the Grizzly … Has maintained rivalry with Don Paysan for past several years … Explosive competitor with tremendous speed and a sadistic streak, who mixes jaw-dropping dives with foot stomps, eye gouges, and other foul tactics … Finisher is a flipping piledriver.

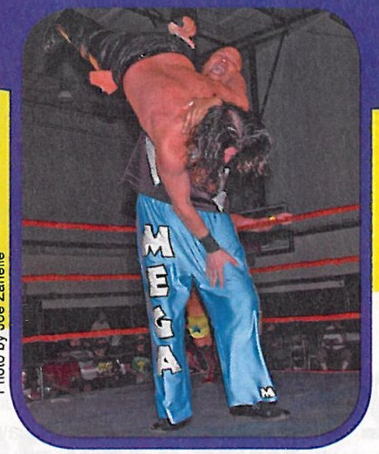


Photo by Joe Zanelle

## 401 TO 416

**409 THUMBTACK JACK** (5'10", 200, 9, NL) German hardcore master has made a blood-spattered mark in the U.S. this year … Was awarded the 2009 CZW Tournament of Death trophy when Nick Gage was severely injured in the tournament final … Won the Tournament of Death Rewind with victories over Jon Moxley, Sami Callihan, and Masada … Beat Callihan for the CXW Ultraviolent Underground title … Wrestled what he claims was the last hardcore match of his career in April, losing to HATE in a 200-Light-Tube match in Germany.

**410 TYLER VERITAS** (5'11", 179, 2, NL) High school grappler eschewed a collegiate wrestling career in favor of the squared circle … Defeated his long-time friend, Adam Cole, to win the Combat Zone Wrestling WIRED championship in front of more than 1,000 fans at Cage of Death XI … Has recently branched out from his home base of CZW and begun competing for promotions in New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Maryland … Mat wrestling specialist is young, hungry, and capable.

**411 MEGA** (6'7", 400, 8, 469) The "larger-than-life" fan favorite achieved a career highlight in May when he beat Bazooka Joe to win the ECWA heavyweight title … One of the most popular competitors in ECWA history … Known as King Mega in the NYWC, where he holds that promotion's heavyweight title … Boasts a devastating belly-to-belly suplex and a match-ending big splash … Quite nimble for a man his size and probably has the best stamina of any 400-pounder.

**412 SCOTTY MAC** (6', 191, 10, NL) Long-time heel has been accepted into the fans' good graces after he was attacked by his former allies in the Chill Town faction … Was recently named Wrestler of the Decade in the Pacific Northwest in a fan poll … Lost the NWA Canadian heavyweight title to former protégé Sid Sylum after a long and bitter feud, ending Mac's two-year reign … Has recently begun teaming with former partner Dropkick Murphy … Appeared on *Smackdown* in a loss to The Great Khali.

**413 ERIC COOPER** (6'1", 240, 5, NL) "The Essential" Eric Cooper is competing throughout the Florida independent scene … Claims to hail from "The Champions Gate Section Of Orlando, Florida" … Held the Vintage Wrestling tag team title with Simon Sez … Held the Liberty Wrestling Organization heavyweight title until dropping it to Kekoa … Also held the ACW heavyweight title … Sets up his patented Tiger bomb finisher with high-impact moves like the spine-buster, the flatliner, and the Death Valley driver.

**414 KID KASH** (5'10", 202, 20, NL) Controversial and talented cruiserweight has won championships in WWE, TNA, and the original ECW … Briefly left wrestling to try his hand in mixed martial arts but has returned to the indy circuit … Was arrested and charged with identity theft last December … The charges were later dropped … Held the Showtime All-Star International title until losing it to Chase Stevens in February … Uses a spike brainbuster he calls The Dead Level.

**415 GRIZZLY REDWOOD** (5'4", 164, 5, 302) Ring of Honor's resident lumberjack loves chopping down bigger opponents with his double-ax handle … Primarily competes in ROH, but occasionally ventures to CHIKARA … Has teamed with Brodie Lee as The Roughnecks … A former ROH Top of the Class trophy winner … Cult favorite in ROH is one of the company's most popular novelty attractions … Knife-edge chops to the knees can fell the mightiest of adversaries.

**416 BRYAN LOGAN** (6', 215, 7, 288) Bryan is the eldest of the three wrestling Logan brothers … Regularly teams with brother Matt, and the brothers are known for their high-energy offense, quick tags, and seamless teamwork … Competes in the East Coast Wrestling Association, Chaotic Wrestling, and the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance … Wrestled in the 2006 ECWA Super 8 tournament, but lost to Milano Collection A.T. in the opening round … Four-time Chaotic Wrestling tag team champion.

# PWI 500



Photo by Joe Zanolille

**417 ADAM COLE** (6', 190, 2, NL) Has quickly become one of the most popular wrestlers in Combat Zone Wrestling … A graduate of the CZW wrestling academy, Cole has also competed for ROH, Dragon Gate USA, EVOLVE, and MCW … Defeated his long-time rival Sabian to win the CZW junior heavyweight championship in May … In addition to using his amateur wrestling and martial arts experience, Cole says another key to his success is his yoga training, which helps with his balance, flexibility, and mental control … Uses a top rope flipping piledriver called "The Panama Sunrise."

**418 NICK LOGAN** (5'10", 206, 5, NL) The younger brother of Matt and Bryan Logan came into his own in surprising fashion by winning the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament, beating Prince Nana, Quiet Storm, and Tommaso Ciampa along the way … Also competes in Chaotic Wrestling … A superior amateur wrestler, Logan has made a seamless transition to the pro game … Has also held the ECWA Mid-Atlantic title … Mixes amateur takedowns and submission wrestling with high-impact suplexes.

**419 PAPADON** (6', 227, 11, 430) Won the first-ever Master of the Mat match in NYWC, defeating Josh Daniels, Quiet Storm, and Bruno Marciano in a 30-minute Iron Man match with a points system for pinfalls and submissions … Won the NYWC heavyweight title in May … Trained under Homicide in the Doghouse Dojo in Brooklyn and under Mikey Whipwreck in the NYWC Wrestling School … Appeared in the movie *The Wrestler* … Won multiple tag team titles with partner Havok.

**420 BREAKER MORANT** (6', 228, 11, NL) East Coast veteran has competed in more than 65 promotions over the course of his career, winning 17 regional championships … Added the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance heavyweight title to his resume in April … Defeated Tony Stetson to win that championship after it was vacated by Steve Corino … Was the first NWA Force One Pro Wrestling heavyweight champion … Has faced many former WWE stars, including Jimmy Snuka, Goldust, Billy Gunn, and Doink the Clown.

**421 VINNY DUNN** (5'11", 250, 5, NL) New Zealand star won the IPW heavyweight title in December 2009 and successfully defended it against all comers before dropping it to the gigantic Reuben De Jong in May … Known as "The One" Vinny Dunn … Held the IPW South Pacific title from August 2007 through March 2008, and won the 2006 Armageddon Cup tournament … Wildly charismatic competitor was a professional rugby player before becoming a wrestler … Uses a version of the musclebuster and missile dropkick.

**422 SCOTT ZENZEN** (6'1", 245, 9, NL) Former Texas All Star champion lasted more than 30 minutes in a bout against Blue Demon before finally succumbing … Held the TASW title for three years … Won the World of Wrestling heavyweight title this year … Also teamed with Scooby Goober to win the TASW tag team title … Main finishing move is a version of the Boston crab that he calls "The Return To Sender" … Roughhousing brawler seemingly lives to inflict pain on others.

**423 BRUISER BENNETT** (6', 245, 21, NL) Old-school brawler has been kicking butt and taking names for more than two decades … Competes for Northern Outlaw Wrestling in South Dakota, where he holds the heavyweight title … Has broadened his horizons in recent years, stepping out of the ring to try his hand at acting … Finishing move is a rolling neckbreaker that he calls The Texas Tumbleweed … Grizzled veteran is tougher than shoe leather and never backs down from a fight.

**424 STEVE O** (6', 231, 4, NL) Nashville native held the NWA Main Event Mid-American title this year … Competes throughout Tennessee, Illinois, Indiana, and Alabama … Feuded with Jeff Daniels, Shawn Shultz, Shane Williams, and Orion Bishop … Mainly a singles competitor, he also teamed with Matt Boyce several times this year … High-impact striker has a wicked superkick … Other pet moves include a stiff double-knee strike to the chest and a double-shock knee smash/neckbreaker combination.

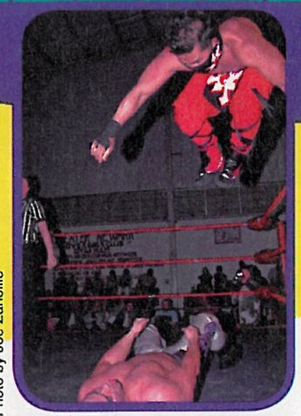


Photo by Joe Zanolille

## 41 TO 432

**425 JAKE O'REILLY** (6'1", 210, 7, 433) "Fighting Irish" was named Ontario's most hated wrestler in 2009 … Solid technical wrestler is at his best in bare-knuckle brawls … His feud with Cody Deaner over the CCW heavyweight title ended with a loss to Deaner in a cage match … Police were called twice during the feud, as the crowd nearly rioted … Defeated Crazzy Steve for the CWR heavyweight title … Competed in a 60-minute tag team match this year, teaming with Pepper Parks against Deaner and Derek Wylde.

**426 FREAK NASTTY** (6', 220, 7, 414) The former ECWA champion got back to his winning ways after he was sneak-attacked and injured by manager Magnum … Unfortunately, he suffered another injury in May and is expected to be out of action for several months … Powerhouse is cocky, brash, and intense … Main finishing moves are a crushing spinebuster and a flying shoulderblock …Was unable to wrest the ECWA title away from fellow strongman Bazooka Joe.

**427 JIMMY CICERO** (6'1", 260, 18, NL) The 18-year veteran has found a new focus, dedicating his career to raising autism awareness after his two sons were diagnosed with the disorder … Known as "The Wiseguy," he was trained by Ivan Koloff, who remains his mentor … Currently holds the NWA Continental title … Has been feuding with Nicky Benz, The Sheik, and Mike Booth … Favors a power-based brawling style, but can grapple when necessary.

**428 KAMIKAZE** (6'1", 192, 8, NL) Japanese heavyweight is a workhorse in ZERO-1 … Previously worked in Big Japan … Competed as Tengu Kaiser, a persona that allows him to showcase his impressive aerial technique … Deceptively powerful … Signature moves are the Kamikaze tornado and the moonsault press … As his name implies, Kamikaze is willing to sacrifice his own body and well-being for the opportunity to inflict punishment on an opponent.

**429 BOBBY SHIELDS** (5'10", 189, 8, NL) When you're as good as Shields, one nickname just isn't enough, so he's dubbed "True Talent" Bobby "The Body" Shields … Appeared on *ECW On Syfy* in a losing effort against Caylen Croft and Trent Barretta … Also competed in ROH this year … Won the cruiserweight and throwback titles in the Allied Powers Wrestling Federation this year … Also won the PWO tag team title … Impressive cardiovascular conditioning allows him to wrestle lengthy matches without tiring.

**430 HIRAM TUA** (6'1", 230, 6, 439) World Wrestling Council contender feuded with both Ricky Steamboat and Richie Steamboat in the past year … Broke with his long-time tag team partner, Carlitos, and the two had a bitter feud before reuniting earlier this year … He and Carlitos—known as *Los Aerios*—won the WWC tag team title in April … Has packed on about 15 pounds of muscle since last year and appears to be leaving the junior heavyweight ranks in favor of heavyweight competition.

**431 EDDIE TAURUS** (5'11", 225, 9, NL) "The Raging Bull" has held the All-Star Wresting heavyweight, American Combat Wrestling heavyweight, and Vintage Wrestling TV titles within the past year … Trained by Pierre "Frenchy Martin" Martel and attended Steve Keirn's School Of Hard Knocks … Top feuds of the past year have been against Eric Cooper, Aaron Epic, and Big Vito … Technically sound wrestler has an extremely effective frog splash … Finisher is the Boo Ya Bomb sit-out power bomb.

**432 MIKAZE** (5'8", 170, 5, NL) "The American Sasuke" is a three-time former tag team champion in Chaotic Wrestling … Competed in the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament, losing to Quiet Storm in the first round … Blends martial arts strikes and counters with daredevil aerial attacks … Had a heated feud with former partner Brian Fury when Fury suspected Mikaze was being recruited by rulebreaking manager Sean Gorman … Popular competitor almost always hides the bottom half of his face under a bandana in Ninja style.

# PWI 500

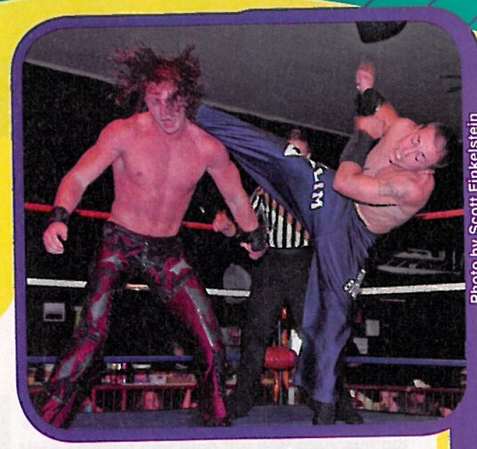


Photo by Scott Finkelstein

**433 TONY STETSON** (5'10", 228, 15, NL) ECW and Tri-State Wrestling Alliance pioneer has had a resurgence in the new TWA … Appeared to have won the TWA heavyweight title in April by pinning Mr. Wrestling III … However, it turned out that TWA champion Steve Corino wasn't under the mask, invalidating the title change … The title was declared vacant and Stetson faced Breaker Morant for the belt … Morant won the bout and the belt … "The Hitman" was a founding father of the Philadelphia hardcore style.

**434 CHRIS ROCKWELL** (5'10", 190, 9, NL) Needed only one minute to win the WORLD-1 heavyweight title … Rockwell has successfully defended that belt against Jerry Lynn … Teams with Sam Shields as The Midnight Sensations … Was trained by "Superfly" Jimmy Snuka, Nunzio, and Simon Diamond … Competes in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and has toured Australia … Uses a leaping flatliner he calls The Complex … Also uses the figure-four leglock and the sleeper as setup holds.

**435 SLIM J** (5'8", 187, 9, 471) The Dirty South's favorite son may be small in stature, but he fights with the heart of a champion … The former NWA Arena grand slam champion (heavyweight, junior heavyweight, TV, and tag team title) has added some MMA-inspired submissions to his game … Has appeared in Ring of Honor and TNA in the past … Was the first NWA Anarchy Young Lions division champion … Very popular high-flyer calls his finishing move The Roach Clip.

**436 DONNY MARLOW** (6'2", 230, 1, NL) Yet another second-generation grappler is coming up through Florida Championship Wrestling … Donny Marlow is the son of former WWE tag team champion and King of the Ring Haku … His brother, Pate Fifita, is also training for a wrestling career … Played football as a defensive end for the University of Texas at El Paso … Has also competed under the names Tonga and Agent T … Impressive rookie has inherited much of his father's legendary toughness.

**437 DAVEY DELUXEO** (6'1", 212, 10, NL) Auckland native is currently in the U.S. training with Team 3-D … Formerly known as "Kid Extreme," Deluxeo now goes by "Double-D" … Held the IPW New Zealand heavyweight title three times … Captured the prestigious Armageddon Cup in 2008 with a win over Disco Inferno … A ring general and superior technician … Sets up opponents for his dangerous Bloodchoke sleeper with a kneelift or a version of the O'Connor roll.

**438 RUDY PARKER** (6', 220, 3, NL) Competed in Ohio Valley Wrestling as Asher Knight … Has relocated to Florida Championship Wrestling … Holds a Master's degree in psychology … Solid technical wrestler with a crisp dropkick, but has struggled against larger and more experienced opponents … Challenged Alex Riley for the FCW heavyweight title in May, but got little offense in and was summarily dismissed by the FCW champion … Has a strong work ethic and plenty of potential.

**439 SAMUEL ELIAS** (6'4", 240, 2, NL) Known As "The Legacy" and "Sweetness," Elias is developing into one of the most controversial and entertaining wrestlers in the Pittsburgh area … Claims to be from Manhattan, where he lives the lifestyle of a jet-setting playboy … Sneaky and underhanded heel bears a resemblance to Buddy Landell … Won the Ches-a-Rena title—which is defended under 24/7 rules whenever the champion is in that venue—with a quick roll-up of veteran T. Rantula … Has a wicked brainbuster finisher.

**440 ERNIE BALLZ** (6'2", 253, 8, NL) Known as "The Rock Show," Ballz is one of the top trash-talkers in Pro Wrestling Ohio … Won the PWO tag team title (with Brian Bender) after breaking Greg Valentine's leg in a sneak-attack, then pinning Valentine's partner, Jim Neidhart, in just 90 seconds … Suffered a broken leg of his own at the hands of the Puerto Rican Wrecking Crew … Has taken to managing Eric Ryan and Cory Winters as he recovers from that injury.



## 433 TO 440

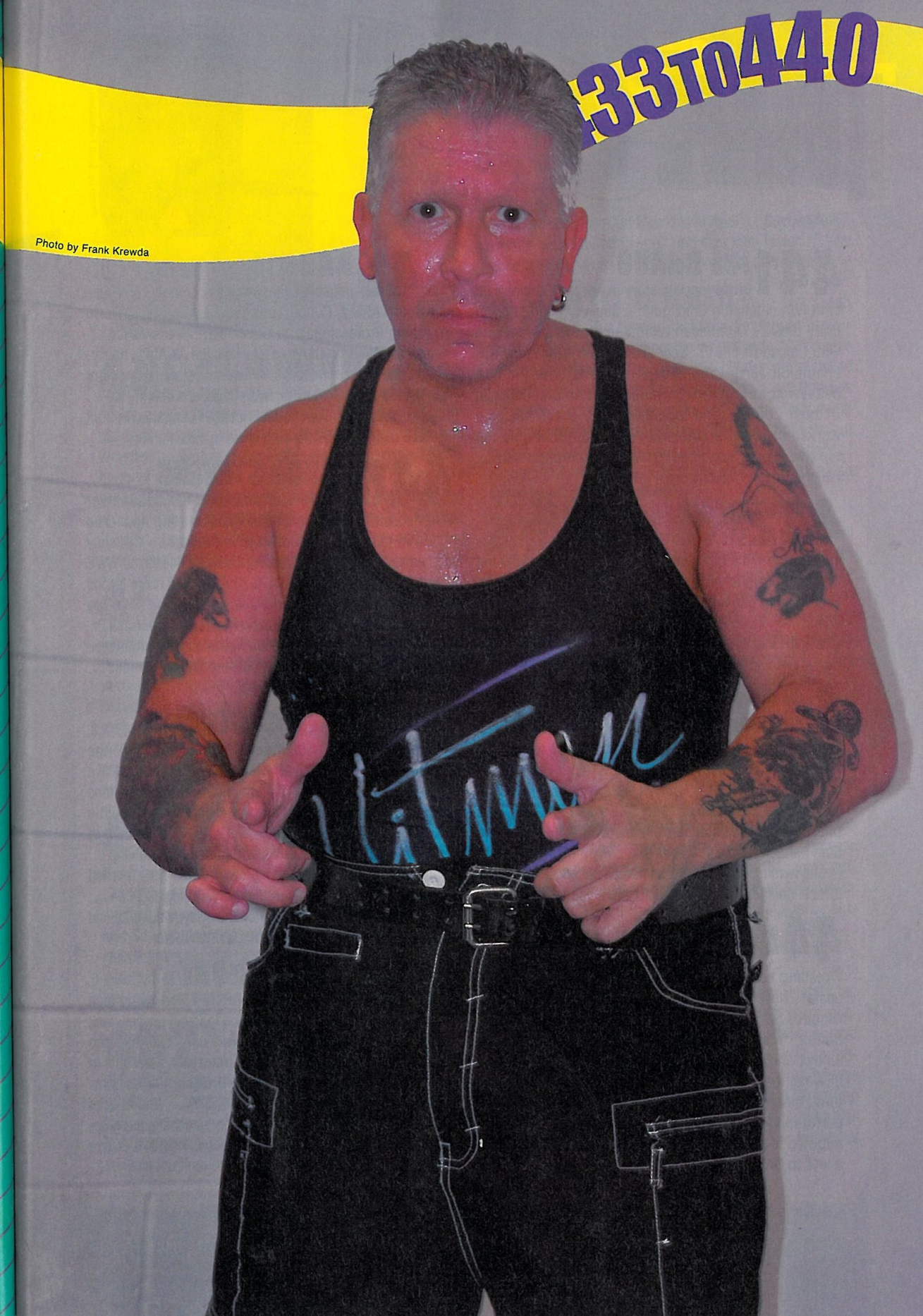


Photo by Frank Krewda

# PWI 500



Photo by Scott Finkelstein

**441 JOE BRAVO** (5'10", 220, 7, NL) Bravo made history in April 2009 when he beat IWA champion Chicano in a title-vs.-title match to unify Bravo's Dominican Wrestling Entertainment title with Chicano's title … Scored a big win over then-ROH champion Jerry Lynn in 2009 … Won both the IWA heavyweight and Intercontinental championships in October 2009 … The top star in IWA, Bravo has also worked cards co-promoted by WWC, the first time the top two Puerto Rican cpmpanies have co-promoted … Finisher is the Bravo Drop, a lifting DDT.

**442 ROBBIE GILMORE** (5'11", 210, 5, NL) "The Rockstar" has been rocking Texas and the Gulf Coast like a hurricane … Defeated Matt Chambers to win the Pro Wrestling Alliance (Houston) heavyweight title last March … Also won the New Breed Wrestling Xtreme Gulf Coast title and the Coastal Championship Wrestling title … Trained under Booker T and has worked as an extra for both WWE and TNA.

**443 RYAN SAWYER** (5'9", 276, 2, NL) The 18-year-old prodigy owns pinfall victories over Ricky Reyes, Steve Corino, and C.W. Anderson … Highlight of his career to date was winning the 2009 WORLD-1 Shinya Hashimoto Memorial Tournament … Known as "The Beast" and "The Ruthless One," he has been compared to a young Terry Gordy and Stan Hansen for his stiff style and burly athleticism … As of this writing, no wrestler has kicked out of his "Ruthless Effect" finisher (an airplane spin into a Stunner).

**444 WILL CALRISSIAN** (5'8", 205, 7, 480) Former Empire State Wrestling heavyweight champion competes throughout upstate New York and Southern Ontario … Previously a rugged, no-nonsense tactician in the mold of Chris Benoit, "Mastiff" has added a bit more panache and enjoys showboating in outrageous outfits … Won the ESW tag team title with Chris Cooper … Suffered a fractured skull after landing head-first on the floor while performing an Asai moonsault, but has recovered and returned to action … Had his prized mullet clipped after a loss to Brutus Beefcake in April.

**445 ANANZI** (6'2", 240, 10, NL) Johannesburg star has competed throughout South Africa, Congo, and India … Based in World Wrestling Professionals in Cape Town, South Africa … Known as "The Lion Of Africa" … Held the All-Africa heavyweight title for four months … Powerful veteran competitor has feuded with Kilimanjaro, Ryan Cage, and Johnny Ice … Calls his finishing move the Bad Habit … Competed in front of more than 40,000 fans on a show in India in May.

**446 AARON STEVENS** (6'4", 237, 8, 164) "Idol" has experienced a career roller-coaster over the past few years, moving from Ohio Valley Wrestling to Smackdown to Puerto Rico … Currently competing for the World Wrestling Council … Held the WWC Puerto Rico heavyweight title in 2009 … Has since turned his focus to tag team competition, winning the WWC tag team title three times (with Shawn Spears, King Tonga Jr., and Chicano) … Former OVW champion has been managed by Beth Phoenix, Michelle McCool, and Shelly Martinez … Finisher is the Idolizer neckbreaker.

**447 MIKE SYDAL** (5'9", 170, 3, 482) The 2009 *PWI* Rookie of the year is a rising star in the Midwest … Was the subject of a grassroots effort that helped him win that award, as fans rallied online to support the up-and-comer … The little brother of WWE's Evan Bourne, Sydal is equally adept at high-flying precision attacks and daredevil maneuvers … Won the High Voltage Wrestling Livewire title … Teamed with Zach Thompson to win the 3XWrestling tag title … Officially "debuted" for Ring of Honor in May (though he had previously wrestled several dark matches there).

**448 ALEX ANTHONY** (5'11", 189, 6, NL) The former WORLD-1 North American champion is chasing Ricky Reyes, trying to get his belt back … Was trained by C.W. Anderson and uses the Anderson spinebuster as a tribute to his mentor … Served in Afghanistan with the 82nd Airborne Division … Also competes in WXW, C4, WWS, UWW, and NSPW … After a brief run as a rulebreaker, he is now back in the fans' good graces … Currently one of the favorites to win the 2010 Shinya Hashimoto Memorial Tournament.



Photo by Joe Zanolle

## 441 TO 456

**449 COLIN DELANEY** (5'10", 172, 7, 410) The former ECW punching bag is having considerably more success these days on the independent circuit … Now claims to be the "Extremely Cute Wrestler" … Native of Rochester, New York, made it to the finals of the 2009 CHIKARA Young Lions Cup Tournament but lost in an upset to Player Dos ... Previously competed as Colin Olsen and teamed with Jimmy Olsen as The Olsen Twins … Has a great sense of humor … The underrated competitor has a ferocious will to win.

**450 CABLE JONES** (6'2", 285, 3, NL) One can only wonder what Mrs. Jones' second choice for a baby name was … Formerly known as Dr. Lamar Braxton Porter, he started his career in WXW before moving to Florida Championship Wrestling and adopting his odd name … Methodical power merchant controls the pace of the match, wearing down opponents with headlocks and chinlocks … Has a spinebuster that can change the momentum of a match in an instant … Apparently gets his man-scaping tips from Kimbo Slice.

**451 CONRAD TANNER** (6'5", 303, 1, NL) Enormous rookie competes in Florida Championship Wrestling … Teamed with Lift Sawyer as "The Clean Cut Combo" … Has received guidance from Irwin R. Schyster … In November 2009, I.R.S. had Tanner and Sawyer escort Abraham Washington out of the ring, claiming Washington was being audited … Scored a major victory over Wade Barrett in January … Popular fan favorite has charisma and presence, but still needs seasoning.

**452 WES BRISCO** (5'10", 214, 1, NL) The son of WWE Hall-of-Famer Gerald Brisco currently is wrestling in Florida Championship Wrestling … Athletic rookie previously competed as a professional wakeboarder … Show signs of promise, particularly with his fluid execution of fundamental takedowns, such as the fireman's carry and deep armdrag … Scored a big upset win over Curt Hawkins in April … Successfully teamed with Eli Cottonwood and Courtney Taylor … Has faced both Sheamus and Drew McIntyre in losing efforts.

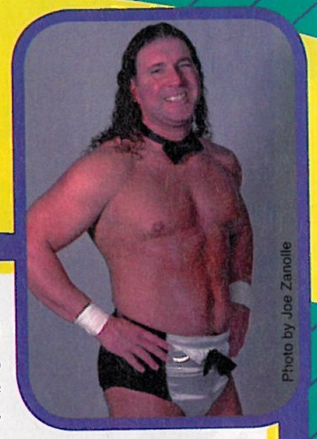
**453 TITUS O'NEIL** (6'4", 267, 2, NL) The former Jacksonville Jaguar graduated from Florida Championship Wrestling to *NXT*, where he was paired with Zack Ryder … Ryder promises to teach O'Neil how to dress and pick up girls, but O'Neil is more concerned about winning matches … Imposing physical specimen has explosive speed and power, but is still learning the fundamentals … Uses a variety of running shoulderblocks and clotheslines, as well as an impressive overhead fall-away slam.

**454 REIKO DMF** (6'3", 211, 4, NL) Tall wrestler out of Boston is competing for WORLD-1 Wrestling … Refuses to reveal what DMF stands for, leaving us to assume it's unprintable in a family magazine … Currently feuding with Steve and Colby Corino … Teams with Chris Rockwell, but that team is showing signs of dissension as Reiko seems to be getting flirtatious with Rockwell's girlfriend, Roxie Cotton … A member of Team Symbol, he is managed by Denver Street … Finisher is a running boot to the head.

**455 DAN ECKOS** (5'8", 169, 8, 386) The self-professed super heavyweight had a terrific showing in the 2009 ECWA Super 8 tournament, scoring an upset win over Metal Master in the first round and nearly knocking off eventual finalist Tommaso Ciampa in the semifinals … Hails from "The Weight Room" and claims to stand 6'2" and tip the scales at 420 pounds … Teams with Sean Royal as The Heavyweights … Also competes in Chaotic Wrestling, the NYWC, and Tri-State.

**456 RON FALCO** (5'10", 230, 8, 461) "Triple-X" has held the NWA Upstate tag team title with partner Hellcat for nearly two years, successfully defending it against Dunn and Marcos and Brodie Lee and Cloudy, among others … Burly and ill-tempered brawler also holds the PWA Niagara heavyweight title and the Buffalo Championship Wrestling heavyweight title … Has wrestled some bloody battles against Jonny Puma, Mastiff, Brodie Lee, The Notorious T.I.D., and The McCloud Brothers.

# PWI 500


Photo by Joe Zanolle

**457 HANDSOME JOHNNY** (6'1", 275, 9, NL) Returned to the ring in February after suffering a career-threatening spinal fracture … Won the New England Championship Wrestling Iron 8 tournament … Trained by Killer Kowalski … Also competes in Chaotic Wrestling, where he has been feuding with Biff Busick … Former Millennium Wrestling Federation champion … Signature moves include the spinning heel kick and a double-underhook seated power bomb he calls the Sin City Plunge.

**458 VINCE BEACH** (6'1", 231, 5, NL) The self-proclaimed "Next Big Splash In Sports Entertainment" has been making waves since adopting a lifeguard gimmick … Has irritated fans in more than 20 promotions across the United States and Canada with obnoxious whistle blowing and underhanded tactics … Has fared well in bouts with Brutus Beefcake, The Nasty Boys, Eugene, Manu, "Dangerous" Danny Davis, and Spike Dudley … Earned WWE try-outs this past year … Insists that blonds always have more fun … Signature move is the cannonball splash.

**459 COREY HOLLIS** (5'7", 187, 1, NL) Rookie from Alabama has been compared to a young AJ Styles (especially his Pele kick) … Uses a variety of high-risk moves from the ropes, including a knee off the top rope … Beat Mike Posey to win the NWA Tennessee junior heavyweight title … Holds the NWA Alabama tag title with veteran Adam Jacobs, who has become his mentor … Missed two months with a torn meniscus … Favorite submission move is a satellite crossface.

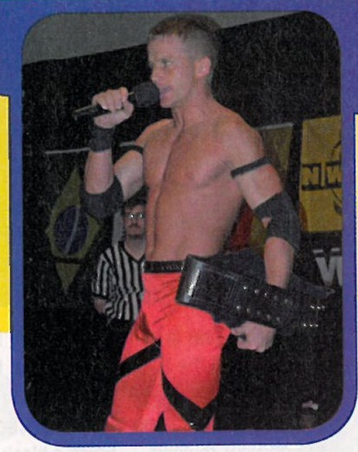
**460 TOMMY MACK** (5'11", 220, 7, NL) Known as "Heart Attack" Tommy Mack … Wrestled against Josef Von Schmidt, Kenny Dykstra, and Spike Dudley this year … Recently competed a tour of Nova Scotia … Trained by Maverick Wild … Popular fan favorite known for his high energy and straight-forward offense … Possesses deceptive speed and stunning dropkick … Has been known to ride to the ring on his motorcycle.

**461 BILL COLLIER** (6'3", 260, 4, NL) Powerhouse has been tearing up the scene in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, and West Virginia … Held the Pro Wrestling Rampage heavyweight title for nearly two years and currently holds the Diamond Championship Wrestling heavyweight title … Gave Bubba the Bulldog a "Big Time" beating, prompting the veteran to proposition Collier to be his tag team partner … Utilizes a power-based attack of jarring slams and stiff strikes until opponents can no longer pull themselves up off the mat.

**462 KWAN CHANG** (6'2", 247, 12, NL) Perennially underrated big man has been a destructive force throughout Ontario, upstate New York, Ohio, and Michigan for more than a decade … Known as "The Asian Nightmare," he claims to be the most violent athlete in pro wrestling … Feared for his raw, stiff style that leaves opponents battered and bruised … Trained by the maniacal Missing Link … Currently holds the NEW Niagara title and the AWA/NWX North American title … Scored a big win over "Highlander" Robbie McCallister in May.

**463 MOZART FONTAINE** (5'11", 220, 9, NL) The flamboyant Chick Magnet sheared off his trademark locks and made a run for the East Coast Wrestling Association title … Unsuccessfully challenged Bazooka Joe for the title in March … After years of hearing boos, he is now a fan favorite … Has been feuding with the impostor Hollywood Chick Magnets, and the fans can't wait until Fontaine, Mike Tobin, and Brian Soscia reunite to take out Magnum's team … ECWA Hall-of-Famer is a former Mid-Atlantic champion.

**464 SCOTT CHASE** (6'1", 225, 12, NL) "The Outlaw" is a veteran of the Canadian ring wars … Formerly teamed with "Tyrant" Eric Dawson as The Texas Hell-Razors … A four-time former Canadian Wrestling Grand Prix champion … Competed for PWA, IPW, CWI, and All-Star Wrestling during the past year … Was previously managed by Angelina Love … Mat-based grappler beats down opponents with basic slams and a wicked lariat … Teamed with Dawson to face The Highlanders in April at the CWI Brawl at the Bush event to raise money for cancer research.



## 457 TO 472

**465 BARRY RYTE** (5'9", 174, 3, NL) Chicago up-and-comer was trained by Super Maxx, Brett Sanders, and Bailey Mannix … Has held the Windy City Pro Wrestling middleweight, light heavyweight, and tag team titles … Also won the Metro Eastern Championship Wrestling Great Plans trophy two times … Was invited to participate in the 2010 ECWA Super 8 tournament … Signature finishers are the Rytes of Passage (a double-arm rolling facebuster) and the sharpshooter … Has feuded with DTA and Matt "Krotch" Mayday.

**466 CHRISIFIX** (5'9", 215, 4, NL) "The Lost Son" currently holds the Wrestlers Alliance Revolution and the National Championship Wrestling Carolinas heavyweight titles … After beating Shane Douglas in July 2009, Douglas took the mike and said, "I am passing the torch to Chrisifix" … Main finisher is the FiXation, a fisherman's suplex with a swinging neckbreaker for added torque … Previously held the High-Velocity Wrestling heavyweight title … Has also competed against Abyss, Jeff Hardy, Jerry Lynn, and Bobby Eaton in the past year.

**467 DON VEGA** (6', 242, 13, NL) "The Punisher" is the reigning Powerhouse New England heavyweight champion and Power League Wrestling champion … Proudly carries the Puerto Rican flag to the ring … Defeated Kenny Dykstra in January and beat Colin Delaney in May … Holds the NECW tag team title with Jose Perez as Rican Havoc … Main finishers are a sky-high power bomb he calls the Vega Bomb and a hammerlock DDT … Has also faced Tony Atlas, Sgt. Slaughter, and The Bushwhackers.

**468 STEVE MADISON** (5'10", 220, 9, NL) "The Modern Miracle" is based in Combat Championship Wrestling and competes throughout the Florida indy circuit … Appeared on an edition of *Hogan Knows Best*, giving a wrestling lesson to Nick Hogan … Two-time NWA-Florida champion has competed in WWE, TNA, ROH, and has made several tours of Japan during his career … Signature finishing move is a crooked-arm lariat … Also goes by the name Moose Madison.

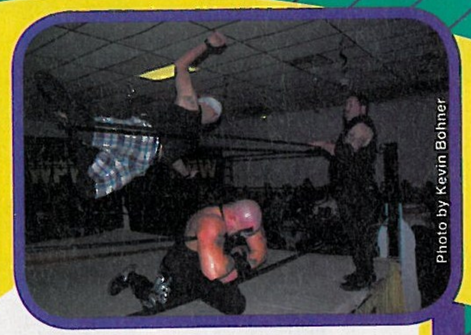
**469 CHRIS BLACK** (6'2", 227, 9, NL) "Loaded Guns" is a rising star in the South … Won the NWA: Mississippi, SWA, and the All-Pro heavyweight titles … Has also held the Dirty South heavyweight title … Adept at using his knees as weapons, attacking foes with a Harley Race-style high knee strike and a pinpoint kneedrop to the head … His finisher is a piledriver variation he calls the Krpity Night Crunch.

**470 MIKE POSEY** (5'8", 170, 8, NL) Former TNA and WWE referee is coming into his own as a wrestler … Held both the NWA Alabama and the NWA Tennessee junior heavyweight championships simultaneously … Defeated 60-year-old Mike Jackson to win the NWA Alabama title, ending Jackson's 10-year reign … Also won the NWA Alabama tag team title with fellow former zebra Wes Adams as The Official Express … A big fan of "Dangerous" Danny Davis, Rick Hazzard, and Shane Sewell … Has been called "Dropkick" Posey.

**471 KID AMERICA** (5'10", 230, 13, NL) Popular flag-waver competes in WORLD-1 and the Tri-State Wrestling Alliance … Frequently teams with The Blue Meanie in TWA … Also competed in B4 Wrestling, where he held the tag team title with El Americano … Deceptively quick on his feet and packs a mean punch … Patriotic masked man has plenty of heart and can take an incredible amount of punishment without saying "Uncle Sam" … Has a very effective DDT … Feuded with Greg Spitz and Steve Corino.

**472 ELI COTTONWOOD** (7'1", 325, 2, NL) Enormous competitor is making waves in Florida Championship Wrestling and is expected to appear on the second season of *WWE NXT* … Debuted in FCW after allegedly being released from the Kelloggs Sanitarium … Started as a villain but has become a fan favorite … Former professional basketball player is a natural rival for The Great Khali and The Big Show … Still green, but athletic … Has a very effective chokeslam that must be respected.

# PWI 500


Photo by Kevin Bohmer

**473 SCOTT WRIGHT** (6', 190, 9, NL) Formerly known as Scotty Charisma … Trained by Nunzio, his mentor and biggest influence … Chiseled competitor is a master tactician … Has held the ECWA heavyweight title twice, and also has held the CCW Pennsylvania title, the ACW TV, junior heavyweight, and tag titles, and the ECPW light heavyweight title … Has wrestled all over the Northeast and competed for WWE several times … Main finishers are the Boston crab, the TKO, and a modified neckbreaker.

**474 CRAZZY STEVE** (5'8", 185, 7, 496) Madman from the Black Hills Sanitarium is the most unorthodox wrestler on the Ontario independent scene … Was named Fan Favorite of the Year in a fan poll this year … Scored wins this year over Kiyoshi, Tyson Dux, and Robby McAllister … Defeated Derek Wylde in an "I Quit" match … Trained by Eric Young … Has held the Canadian Wrestling Revolution heavyweight title … Signature moves include the top-rope DDT and the Busaiko knee strike.

**475 J.T. PLAYA** (6', 245, 10, NL) The man who has claimed to channel the spirit of Ike Turner and Sammy Davis Jr. is back in action after missing more than a year following shoulder surgery … Competing for Maximum Pro Wrestling … Scored a big comeback win over Derek Wylde earlier this year … Has also defeated Tyson Dux and Eric Young … A former New Spirit Pro Wrestling Grand champion … Methodical wrestler uses his superior upper body strength to immobilize opponents and wear down quicker foes.

**476 CAMERON THOMAS** (5'10", 186, 5, NL) One-half of The First String with A.J. Strokes … Trained by Wild Samoan Sika … The First String is one of the top independent tag teams in Florida, holding both the CSW and WIW tag titles at press time … Two-time former GAWF tag champion … Also occasionally competes in Alabama … Tag team finishing move is a double-team atomic drop/superkick combination … Thomas is the arrogant high-flyer of the team.

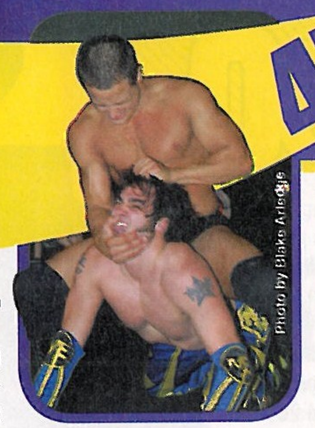
**477 PRINCE IAUKEA** (5'11", 219, 15, NL) The former WCW TV champion and 1997 *PWI* Rookie of the Year is still active on the Florida independent scene … Held the NWA Florida junior heavyweight title for six months in 2008-2009 … Owns and promotes 3SX Wrestling, which runs wrestling shows in American Samoa and New Zealand … Holds a black belt in judo and is a master of submission grappling … Still in incredible shape … Helping train his son, who competes as Nick Primo … Sets up his diving DDT finisher with a swandive headbutt.

**478 MARC MANDRAKE** (5'9", 256, 10, 491) "The Suicide Messiah" has relocated from Western New York to sunny Florida, where he has competed for 11 promotions in the past year … Formed The Highwaymen with Butch Long … The Highwaymen defeated the James Boys for the DWI tag title and The Heartbreak Express for the Too Hot for TV tag title … Feuded with Sideshow, the brother of Mandrake's valet, Ferrari, for much of the past year … Hardcore specialist doesn't shy away from blood—his own or his opponents'.

**479 RAY ALEXANDER** (5'10", 220, 5, NL) Became the first wrestler ever to hold all of World Professional Wrestling's singles titles (heavyweight, light heavyweight, U.S., and Pennsylvania State) simultaneously … WPW owner Pinky Pinkerton is always looking for ways to screw Alexander, and often makes him defend his titles more than once a show … So far, Alexander has been up to the challenge … Competes as a heel, but makes time to support Special Olympics, posing for photos with the athletes and his belts … Record from August 2009 through July 2010 was 33 wins, two losses, and one time-limit draw.

**480 J.B. TRASK** (6', 221, 24, NL) Long-time ring warrior just won the 30th independent championship of his career, the Northern Lights Wrestling title … Has recently feuded with fellow veteran Jerry Lynn … Has competed in WWE, WCW, NWA, and AWA during his career and also ran Northern Premier Wrestling in the 1990s … The nephew of Kenny "Sodbuster" Jay … Signature moves are the Falcon's Arrow and superkick … The only wrestler in this year's "*PWI* 500" who has actually faced Nick Bockwinkel in the ring.

## 473 TO 488


Photo by Blake Arledge

**481 RIP IMPACT** (6', 181, 6, NL) Rising star in Ontario has made appearances for Ring of Honor and Dragon Gate USA … Was involved in coordinating the wrestling component of a performance of the play *Trafford Tanzi* in Waterdown, Ontario … Competed for Toryumon in Mexico and trained under Ultimo Dragon and Skayde … Named "Best Babyface" in 2006, 2007, and 2008 in the Ontario Indy awards … Has competed against Sabu, Christopher Daniels, and AJ Styles … Held the CWF tag title this year.

**482 BRIAN MILONAS** (6'4", 350, 9, NL) Massive brawler from New Hampshire was trained by Killer Kowalski … Has proven to be a dominant force in Chaotic Wrestling, where he has held the heavyweight title (twice), the tag title (three times), and the New England championship … Known as "The Kingpin," perhaps for his resemblance to the Marvel Comics villain of the same name … Throws his weight around with his Baldo bomb finisher … Has feuded with Chase Del Monte, Tomasso Ciampa, and the Logan brothers.

**483 A.J. STROKES** (5'8", 190, 8, NL) Trained by tag team specialist Marty Jannetty … Teams with Cameron Thomas as The First String … Squat powerhouse is a superior mat wrestler with dangerous brawling abilities … Strokes is also the ring general of the tandem … Team utilizes quick tags and precision double-team maneuvers to keep opponents off-balance … Has held tag team titles in GAWF, CSW, and WIW.

**484 PHIL LATIO** (5'9", 169, 15, NL) Long-time Ontario wrestler and referee recently relocated to Florida to try to advance his wrestling career … Outrageous exotico had a brief developmental contract with WCW in 1999 … Had a standout match against Cody Deaner in PWX … Also faced LuFisto in a gay-vs.-girl match … Signature moves include the stink face, bronco buster, and headscissors … Is much more conservative as a referee and has reffed hundreds of bouts, including a TNA World title match between Christian Cage and Kurt Angle.

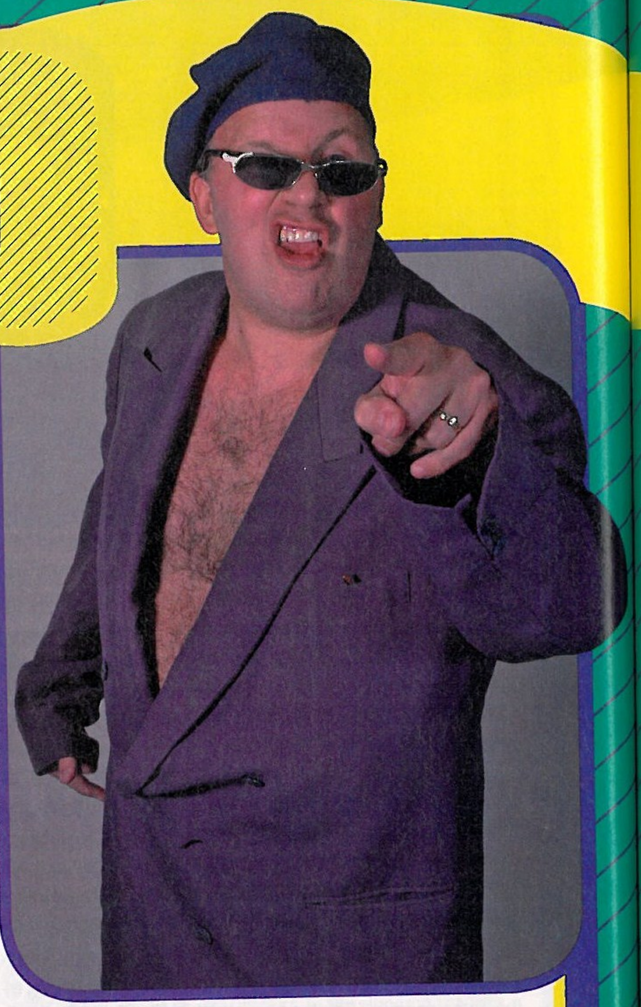
**485 MALACHI** (6'2", 285, 3, NL) Brawny brawler held the APW Universal heavyweight title from November 2009 through May 2010 … Dropped the belt to Jeckles the Jester … His big boot to the face has sent several opponents to the hospital … Has been compared to Bruiser Brody and Mike Knox … Won the 2009 Gauntlet to the Gold tournament … Style is basic smash-mouth, battering opponents with heavy, methodical taped-fist punches and kicks.

**486 CHRIS COOPER** (5'11", 204, 8, NL) "Wrestling Personified" has had a tremendous year in Empire State Wrestling, winning the ESW heavyweight title from Kevin Grace and the tag team title with partner Mastiff … Successfully defended the ESW title against former champion Jonny Puma in a steel cage match in April … Superior technical wrestler relishes beating fan favorites and infuriating fans … Previously held the ESW Interstate title … Has adopted a version of the Codebreaker that he calls The Limelight.

**487 PRIMO SCORDINO** (5'9", 201, 8, NL) Competitive bodybuilder is a tag team specialist, usually teaming with Tony Carbonie as The Italianos … Arrogant and self-absorbed, loves showing off his buff body … Has won dozens of tag titles throughout his career and has had two WWE tryouts … Possesses a keen eye for the ladies, and has had several beautiful valets, including Jennifer Blake and Krystal Banks … Wears down foes with kicks, punches, and headlocks before finishing them with the DDT.

**488 BARRY HARDY** (6'1", 230, 23, 494) Long-time WWE preliminary wrestler has faced a litany of greats including Bret Hart and Shawn Michaels … Was inducted into the Maryland Wrestling Hall of Fame … Enjoyed a comeback in recent years … Held the CWA Florida heavyweight title from September 2009 through April 2010 … Occasionally teams with his son, Brian … Competes according to the philosophy that says it's not how many times you get knocked down, but how many times you get back up that's important.

# PWI 500



**489 HELLCAT** (5'9", 202, 13, NL) Veteran wrestler and promoter has been focusing on tag team competition lately and has held the NWA NY tag title with Triple-X for two years … Feuded with Brodie Lee, Jimmy Snuka, and Barry Hardy this year … Turned on his own promotion (NWA Upstate) to join the rival 2CW … Reignited his on-again, off-again feud with Chop Stetson, a rivalry that has gone on for almost 12 years … Has also competed for Magnum Pro Wrestling in Ohio and PWA in Ontario.

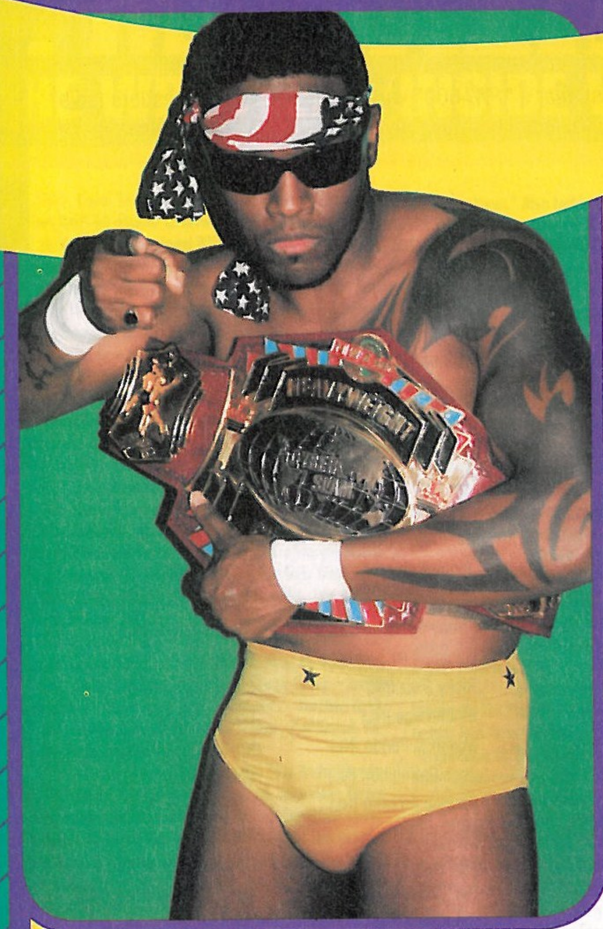
**490 SHOCKWAVE THE ROBOT** (5'8", 185, 11, 500) One of the most unique wrestlers anywhere, the breakdancing robot is particularly popular with younger fans, and he'll usually invite a few into the ring to dance with him after matches … Has competed for ZERO-1 and HUSTLE in Japan … Has the ability to "reprogram" himself with a control panel on his wrist, allowing him to wrestle in a less robotic fashion … A surprisingly quick and fluid grappler when competing in that mode … Main weakness is water, which can cause him to short-circuit.

**491 ROBERT ROMA** (5'8", 225, 17, NL) Former WCW Power Plant student won both the NWA Carolinas light heavyweight and SCWA Southeastern heavyweight titles this year at the age of 40 … Recently returned from a complete biceps tear … Proudly old-school in his approach … Scientific mat wrestler who uses the Northern Exposure and Long Island driver to win matches … Last made the "PWI 500" in 1998 … Has survived bouts against Tully Blanchard and Abdullah the Butcher.

**492 BILLY GIBBS** (5'11", 215, 13, NL) Trained by "The Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant … Competes across Virginia, North Carolina, and West Virginia … Has held the BWF tag team title five times, most recently for six months with partner Beef … Teamed with Scotty Rocker to score a big win over Bobby Eaton and Dennis Condrey … Previously held the BWF Unified title … Signature moves include the missile dropkick and the Michinoku driver … Has had an on-again, off-again feud with Mike Williams for several years.

**493 STEVE KRUZ** (6', 215, 9, NL) "Mr. One Night Stand" is one-half of The Killer Steves with "Studly" Steve McKenzie … Teamed with McKenzie and Zaquary Springate III in a loss to the BWO at the old ECW Arena … Held the IPW heavyweight title, which he lost to Chris LaPlante … Arrogant, self-professed ladies man competes in New York, Pennsylvania, and Ontario … Highlight of the past year was a 12-foot daredevil dive to put K-Pusha through a table in a tag team tables match.

**494 MR. OOH LA LA** (5'11", 185, 20, NL) Everyone's favorite bumbling Frenchman has dropped nearly 70 pounds and is in the best shape of his career … Mainly focusing on tag team competition these days, but his stamina has greatly improved with his slimmer physique … Unfortunately, he still falls down almost every time he steps into the ring … Northeastern institution competes in the TWA and ECWA, where he is a former Mid-Atlantic champion and a member of the ECWA Hall of Fame.



**495 SUPER SWEET** (5'9", 215, 4, NL) A former WORLD-1 North American and People's Choice champion, Super Sweet is always a crowd favorite … Has feuded with Rob Dimension, Shane Harris, and Team Symbol … Occasionally teams with the equally popular Kid America … Often referred to as the most loveable person on the WORLD-1 roster … Treats fans to candy, confetti, and streamers … Unorthodox competitor was said to have been motivated after attending a recent seminar by Jerry Lynn and is looking to add a new dimension to his offense.

**496 BRANDON THURSTON** (5'6", 155, 7, NL) Tag team specialist remains unpinned in Western New York since October 2008 … Defeated Mike Radski in a pair of physical bouts and was impressed enough to form a team with him … The two won the ESW tag title from Mastiff and Chris Cooper … Previously held that title with Benjamin Smythe … Extremely talented grappler and submission specialist … Defeated Mastiff in a singles match for AWF in Toronto … Also beat Joey Knight and Colin Delaney.

## 489 TO 500

**497 GABE SAINT** 5'11", 199, 10, NL) The hot-tempered Saint displayed shrewd strategy when he clandestinely placed a bounty on his own head, then manipulated the situation to maneuver into position as top contender for the NWA No Limit and NWA New York titles … Defeated Danny Doring and Pepper Parks in a three-way match to successfully defend the No Limit title … Offense is a mixture of smash-mouth brawling and precision aerial attacks … Trained by Hellcat … Currently holds the NWA NY heavyweight title.

**498 KLIFF HANGER** (6', 200, 9, NL) Louisville native made his Ring of Honor debut this year, losing to Grizzly Redwood in a dark match at Survival of the Fittest 2009 … Known as "The Black Diamond," Hanger also has been known to refer to himself as "Martin Luther Bling" … Longest-reigning NWA Cyberslam champion currently holds the SCW Southern TV title … Recently tangled with Ron Garvin, and felt the fury of the 65-year-old's hands of stone.

**499 PETER B. BEAUTIFUL** (6'3", 325, 11, 489) The flamboyant 300-pounder feuded much of the year with The Ninja in Milwaukee's Insane Championship Wrestling … Holds the distinction of being Hornswoggle's first opponent in NWA Wisconsin … Has also competed against Jake Roberts, Abdullah the Butcher, and Koko B. Ware, but he prefers wrestling women … Added a controversial new maneuver to his repertoire that he calls the Stuffed Piledriver … Primary finisher is a fireman's carry Ace crusher called The Face Lift.

**500 BARRY WOLF** (6'1", 225, 8, NL) Widely traveled Mississippian held the NWA Mississippi heavyweight title and has competed in Alabama, Arkansas, and Florida … Has competed for NWA Battlezone, All-Pro Productions, U.S. Championship Wrestling, and Universal Championship Wrestling … Briefly held the NWA Mississippi tag team title with Ron Horn in a team named Whiskey Hangover … Has feuded with partner Horn, James Storm, Lukas Frost, and Wade Garrett.

# FAREWELL TO THE 500

The list of active wrestlers is always changing. Since last year's "*PWI* 500" was published, some wrestlers have migrated to different federations or changed their names. Others are now injured, inactive, or retired. Still others have been dropped from this year's ranking for other reasons.

**Keys are as follows: (D) deceased; (DL) disabled list throughout a major portion of this year; (I) inactive; (NC) name change; (NL) not listed; (R) retired.**

2 Dope (NL)
Trent Acid (NL)
Afa Jr. (NL)
Prince Mustafa Ali (NL)
Amasis (NL)
C.W. Anderson (NL)
Arrick Andrews (NL)
Angel (NL)
APOC (NL)
Lance Archer (NC)
Alex Arion (NL)
Atomic Dogg (NL)
Azrieal (NL)
Nate Bash (NL)
Sheik Abdul Bashir (NC)
Max Bauer (NL)
Nick Berk (NC)
Ultramantis Black (NL)
Jon Bolen (NL)
Hook Bomberry (NL)
The Boogeyman (NL)
Matt Boyce (NL)
Steve Boz (NL)
Ryan Braddock (NL)
John E. Bravo (NL)
Igotta Brewski (NL)
El Bronco (NL)
D-Lo Brown (R)
The Bruiser (NL)
Lance Cade (NL)
Obie Cartel (NL)
Hurricane Castillo (NL)
Cha Cha Chance (NL)
Cheech (NL)
Mason Childs (NL)
Riki Choshu (NL)
Shawn Christopher (NL)
Francisco Ciatso (NL)
Cloudy (NL)
Cobian (NL)
Milano Collection A.T. (R)
Chad Collyer (NC)
Orlando Colon (NL)
El Commandante (NL)
Ric Converse (NL)
Diego Corleone (NL)
Creed (NL)
Matt Cross (NC)
Ryan Cruz (NL)
Jon Cutler (NL)
Brain Damage (NL)
Dark Ozz (NL)
Maverick Darsow (NL)
Phil Davis (NL)
Sean Davis (NL)
Deranged (NL)
Tommy Diablo (NL)
Mike DiBiase (NL)
Joe Doering (NC)
Danny Doring (NL)
Andy Douglas (R)
Jim Duggan (NL)
Johnny Dynamo (NL)
Dysfunction (NL)
Elegido (NL)
Eric Escobar (NL)
Brandon Espinosa (NL)
Eric Everlast (NL)
Falah (NL)
Festus (NC)
Bobby Fish (NL)
Flash Flanagan (NL)
J.T. Flash (NL)
Mick Foley (NL)
Frederick of Hollywood (NC)
Rick Fuller (NL)
Kung Funaki (NL)
D.J. Gabriel (NL)
G.Q. Gallo (NL)
Vin Gerard (NL)
Zach Gowan (NL)
Grim Reefer (NL)
Juventud Guerrera (NL)
Charlie Haas (NL)
Danny Havoc (NL)
Havok (NL)
Luke Hawx (NL)
Helios (NL)
Ikuto Hidaka (NL)
Jethro Holiday (NL)
Iceberg (NL)
A.J. Istria (NL)
Matt Jackson (NC)
Nick Jackson (NC)
B.G. James (NL)
Jamie Jay (NL)
Acid Jazz (NL)
Brian Jennings (NL)
Jesse (NC)
Victor Jovica (NL)
Kafu (NL)
Kahagas (NL)
King Kalua (NL)
Yoshinobu Kanemaru (NL)
Taiyo Kea (NL)
Conrad Kennedy III (NL)
Cute Kip (NL)
Kiyoshi (NL)
Kizarney (NC)
Dylan Klein (NL)
Kenta Kobashi (NL)
Tony Kozina (NL)
Mike Kruel (NL)
Ricky Landell (NL)
Jerry Lawler (NL)
Leslie Leatherman (NL)
Chris Lexxus (NL)
Lightning (NL)
Vaughn Lilas (NL)
Mr. Mac (NL)
Dan Maff (NL)
Brad Martin (NL)
Mastiff (NC)
Nigel McGuinness (NC)
Mark Mercedes (NL)
Shawn Michaels (R)
Chris Mordetzky (NC)
Navajo Warrior (NL)
Bam Neely (NL)
Jamie Noble (NL)
Jimmy Olsen (NL)
Kenny Omega (NL)
Ophidian (NL)
Ricky Ortiz (NL)
Ethan Page (NL)
Madman Pondo (NL)
Josh Prohibition (NL)
Chance Prophet (NL)
Mike Reed (NL)
Sal Rinauro (NL)
Cpl. Robinson (NL)
Big Rocco (NL)
Romeo Rosselli (NL)
Sean Royal (NL)
Donovan Ruddick (NL)
Ryback (NL)
Andrew Ryker (NL)
Sabian (NL)
Sabu (NL)
Benjamin Sailer (NL)
Sal (NL)
Jalil Salaam (NL)
Pinkie Sanchez (NL)
Bobby Sanford (NL)
Byron Saxton (NL)
Daisuke Sekimoto (NL)
Shane Sewell (NC)
Sexxxy Eddy (NL)
Sebastian Slater (NL)
Al Snow (NL)
Sim Snuka (NL)
Greg Spitz (NL)
Chicky Starr (NL)
Robby Starr (NL)
Ace Steele (NL)
Ken Steel (NL)
Chase Stevens (NL)
Idol Stevens (NL)
Alan Stone (NL)
Devon Storm (NL)
Tim Storm (NL)
The Stro (NL)
Tommy Suede (NL)
Suicide (I)
Super Hentai (NL)
Booker T (NL)
Notorious T.I.D. (NL)
Shingo Takagi (NL)
Micah Taylor (NL)
Hiriyoshi Tenzan (NL)
Antonio Thomas (NL)
Brandon Thomaselli (NL)
Thunder (NL)
Tank Toland (NL)
Tommy Trouble (NL)
Umaga (D)
Volador Jr. (NL)
Val Venis (NC)
Way Cool (NL)
B.J. Whitmer (NL)
Wildside (NL)
Lawman Williams (NL)
Jeremy Wyatt (NL)
Shiima Xion (NL)
Christian York (NL)
David Young (NL)
Z-Barr (NL)
Larry Zbyszko (NL)
Zodiac (NL)
Zokre (NL)

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